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ABSTRACT

This history of public libraries, which updates a 1959 publication entitled "Colorado's Century of Public Libraries," was published for Colorado's State Centennial and the Nation's Bicentennial. Included are histories of 114 public libraries, the seven regional library systems, and the Colorado State Library. Statistical tables list the number and names of libraries built in each decade since 1870, Carnegie library buildings in Colorado, and libraries founded by women or women's clubs. (JAB)

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**COLORADO PUBLIC LIBRARIES 1876-1976
HISTORICAL SKETCHES**

including
Histories of the Regional Library Service Systems
and the
Colorado State Library

Compiled by
Terttu Maija Barsch

**COLORADO
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May 1977

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The Colorado State Library is pleased to publish this history of public libraries, compiled by Mrs. Terttu Barsch. We are grateful for the time and effort she put into the project.

Colorado Public Libraries 1876-1976, Historical Sketches brings up-to-date a 1959 publication, *Colorado's Century of Public Libraries* compiled by the Colorado State Library for publication during Colorado's Territorial Centennial Year and the "Rush to the Rockies" celebration. It is fitting that an updated history of public libraries be published in 1976, Colorado's Centennial and the Nation's Bicentennial year.

Mrs. Barsch has also included histories of the seven library systems and the Colorado State Library.

Anne Marie Faisone
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Library Services

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Special gratitude and appreciation is also offered to Ms. Evelyn Brewster and Ms. Lee Thielen at the State Library, who were very patient in serving as advisors and counselors, and to my husband, Karl-Heinrich Barsch and to my friend Pat McClure for their help with the manuscript. Without the cooperation of all the people involved, it would not have been possible to bring this project to a happy end.

Foreword

The purpose of this publication is to update the *Colorado's Century of Public Libraries*, edited by Gordon L. Bennett and Fern A. Shannon, published in 1959 by the Colorado State Library, Colorado State Department of Education. In the "Editor's Note" of that publication the authors state: "At a later date it may be possible to prepare a supplement to *Colorado's Century of Public Libraries* which will present historical sketches of the public library units not mentioned because copy was not made available."

As many of the libraries included in *Colorado's Century of Public Libraries* have expanded since, and others have been established since 1959, a mere supplement alone would not have been sufficient. 1976, the Centennial year of Colorado, is an appropriate time to up-date the 1959 publication.

The data has been collected through correspondence with the libraries. A letter, requesting historical sketches and photos, was sent to all public libraries in Colorado. Some libraries did not send a picture because they were not located in an actual library building, others because they were in the process of remodeling or moving. All pictures, except those from Boulder, Broomfield, and Idaho Springs, which come from my personal collection, are compliments of those libraries which they represent.

Many histories of the 1959 publication are submitted as such with recent histories added to bring them up-to-date. Most of the histories, however, have been rewritten and edited in order to make them more or less uniform in length and amount of detail.

The histories of Stratton, Victor, Rangle, and Ridgeway public libraries are not included because no data was available.

Introduction

Since this book is mainly a reference work, no one will perhaps ever read it from cover to cover the way one reads a novel. However, those few of us who were forced to do just that — myself and my proofreaders — learned a lesson which probably no other reading could have impressed so forcefully upon our minds: the enormous contribution which women made to early Colorado communities and to Colorado libraries. At least 65% of Colorado's libraries were founded by women or women's clubs (see Table IV), and virtually all Colorado libraries were kept alive throughout most of their early history by women's clubs. In this respect it is interesting that still today the librarians and board members in Colorado's libraries are almost exclusively women, with recently established and large libraries representing the exception to the rule. If what happened in Colorado is a pattern that holds true for other states as well, one may speculate that most American libraries owe their existence to women. How is one to account for that?

There can be no question that in early Colorado communities women had a definite and important role to play — a moral role. When Boulder women voted to provide a place where "men and boys of the town could congregate without going into the saloons", when the ladies in Grand Junction wanted library patrons "whose morals are unquestionably good", or when Colorado Springs women struggled to keep open a room "where good literature might be furnished free to anyone wishing to read", they were not only concerned with the intellectual atmosphere in the community but also with the moral atmosphere. To appreciate their faith in libraries, one must understand that theirs was a time when a book was by definition a good (and expensive) book, a periodical by definition a good periodical — at least this was so in the minds of the ladies.

Like all institutions that survived centuries, libraries are flexible and capable of growth. Thus our libraries today are no longer reading rooms which serve to keep men out of "saloons". Rather, they reflect the specific needs of contemporary society. The necessity for highly specialized knowledge and the necessity to provide atten-

tion and entertainment for children of working mothers and grandparents of busy families are only some of these needs. Thus almost all historical sketches in this book describe the library's most recent history in terms of such services as extensive reference collections, summer reading programs, children's story hours, services to the homebound and to nursing homes.

Two thirds of Colorado's public libraries, 76 out of 114, were founded between 1890 and 1930 (see Table I). For many small Western towns this epoch was a time of transition from frontier society to civilized society, and the sudden craving for libraries was a symptom of this transition. The wave of Carnegie grants all over the country belongs to that same period.

There is perhaps nothing more characteristic of the early American community than the belief in shaping the quality of life through local community efforts. While virtually all libraries are now maintained by municipal, state, or federal revenues, almost none of them was brought into existence by government agencies; in almost all cases the state and municipal agencies only lent financial support to an institution that had already been created by the community. As time went on, however, the role of municipal and state funding and administration became progressively more important to the security and efficiency of the libraries. The most important development along this line in recent times has been the introduction of library service systems, first established as a pilot project in the 1960s. The importance and the functions of these systems is described again and again in the individual historical sketches. (For services and the geographical distribution of service systems see Tables V and VI.)

This year's event of Colorado's one hundredth birthday is a most appropriate occasion to take a look back into the state's history. It is hoped that this account of the history of Colorado public libraries may contribute some insight into the brief but eventful past of our state.

Terttu Maija Barsch

PART I

COLORADO PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Aguilar's New Public Library

Aguilar Public Library

The Aguilar Town Library is very young. Established in 1963, it owes its existence mainly to the efforts of Mrs. Mary Lou Vialpando and the Iota Phi Sigma Sorority.

At first the library was located in the Town Hall. Local high school boys built the book shelves under the supervision of Mr. Harold Odorizzi, who also made the library sign.

Books came from many individual donations, from the Iota Phi Sigma Sorority, and from a former library. In addition, the State Library helped the collection by loaning books.

Elected officers were Mary Lou Vialpando (Chairman), Josephine Cuzzetto, Jeanna Reeves, Dollie Payne, and Kathryn Giuliano.

Mary Lou Vialpando and Dollie Payne kept the library open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Mrs. Josephine Cuzzetto instituted a summer story hour which proved to be a very great success.

In 1966 a "Friends of the Library" group was founded and their fund raising programs have been highly successful.

In 1968 the library changed its name from Town Library to Public Library and moved out of the Town Hall to a new location. An old building in town was completely remodeled to house the new library, and the bricks from the demolished upper story were used to build a community center adjoining the library.

New shelves, desks, and tables were built by the Government anti-poverty program, *Mainstream*. 4-H Club girls and the *Mainstream* men moved the books and shelves from the Town Hall to the new building.

The library took another step forward in serving the students and people of the community when it became a member of the Arkansas Valley Library System and improved its collection with a new set of World Book Encyclopedias.

The present members of the board are Helen Stakich, Josephine Cuzzetto, Lana Paulovich, Ann Begley, Elaine Chavez, and Dollie Payne.

Information by Dollie Payne

Akron Public Library

The Akron Public Library was organized by Mrs. Jeanette Schaeffer in the basement of the Washington County Courthouse in 1920. Mrs. Schaeffer asked townspeople who had books to lend to bring them to her. She then loaned the books to other residents, and a small lending library was started. This method of exchanging reading matter was practiced for approximately two years, but eventually circulation became more than Mrs. Schaeffer could manage under her very simple system.

In 1922 the collection was turned over to Miss Bess Annabel who was hired to establish a library program under the direction of the county clerk, Roy Cummings. This arrangement was continued until 1931 and was known as the County Library. At this time the county commissioners announced that they could no longer provide housing or funds to operate the library, and that another sponsor would have to be located. When the women of the town learned of the decision of the commissioners, they immediately began to look for other sources of money with which to build a town library. Masonic Lodge #74, AF and AM donated two lots for a site, and countless benefits were given by various organizations to secure building funds. Many individuals made donations to the cause, and by the end of the summer the campaign goal was almost reached. Just one last push was needed to put it over the top, and arrangements were made to raffle a Ford touring car at the county fair.

The present brick structure was dedicated in 1931, and in June 1958 a complete renovation of the entire library was undertaken by the women on the Board assisted by helpers from the community and a member of the State Library staff.

Since 1960 a new era in library services began with the coming of the Bookmobile and System library organization. The Akron Library became a member of the High Plains System.

During the past 52 years, three women have served as librarians: Bess Annabel held the position for 38 years, Lavenia Woods served from 1960 to 1970, and the present librarian is Margaret Cooley.

Information by Margaret Cooley

Aspen Pitkin County Library

In May, 1938 a meeting was called by Mrs. Charles Hart, county superintendent of schools in Pitkin County, for the purpose of organizing a library association. Present were Mrs. William R. Shaw, Mrs. Helen Collins and Miss Louise M. Berg. Later Mr. C. E. Coffey, superintendent of the Aspen schools, and Mr. L. Paul Smith, principal of the Aspen grade school, joined the group. These persons established what is now the Pitkin County Library.

The salary of the librarian was paid by the Works Progress Administration and later by the National Youth Organization. Except for salaries, this first library was strictly a private enterprise. Every lodge, church group, civic organization and many individuals made cash donations, while businesses helped with work, discounts and gifts. The Theater Guild gave plays. The Isis Theater donated the proceeds from movies.

The City of Aspen, owner of the Wheeler Opera House, donated the use of two corner rooms on the first floor and a large vault in the basement of the building. These rooms had been used by the J. B. Wheeler Banking Company in Aspen's boom days, and in later years as a sugar depository by William R. Shaw who vacated them for the new enterprise. In 1946, when the Aspen Company leased the building from the city, the library rooms were exempted from the lease by the city council, thus assuring the library of a fine location.

The work of cleaning the rooms was done by members of the board and other interested citizens. Heat was supplied by an over-size potbellied stove which had been used in Aspen's Lincoln school in the early days and which was donated by the school board. All furnishings, equipment and the first 1,000 books were donated.

The library was opened with a public tea on October 5, 1938. The *Aspen Times* of that week states that the library "is one of the finest civic and cultural improvements made in Aspen in many years" and that "it will render useful educational and recreational service to this community".

In the November 1940 election a proposal to support the library through county taxation was placed on the ballot and carried by a large majority. The county commissioners levied a tax of two-tenths of one mill for library purposes. In 1950 an appropriation of \$100 a month was voted, and this sum had gradually been increased to \$210 per month.

By the sixties it was evident that the library was outgrowing its space. Fund raising began in 1961. The new library building, located on Main Street, was dedicated on March 19, 1966. The principal guests and speakers at the dedication were Walter Cronkite, CBS News Commentator, former Governor of Colorado John Love, and several members of the Colorado State Library staff.

The new library was built and equipped through a combination of federal and local funds. The new facility initially housed a collection of approximately 12,000 volumes. The building had a capacity of 20,000 volumes and contained features such as a children's room, meeting room and a music room, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kettering.

Aspen's population in 1975 was more than 10,000. The circulation was more than 50,000 items and the library budget was \$90,000.

The library is continuing to strive to meet the needs of the growing community. Not only Pitkin County residents, but also the many skiers and other winter guests, and the summer visitors who come to Aspen from every state and many nations for the music and humanities programs, use its facilities for pleasure and study.

The board of trustees members are Mona Frost, Chairman, Ellen Harland, Richard Clarke, Esther Beamer, and Sally Smyth.

Information by Florence M. Kirwin.

Ault Public Library

The first library service available in Ault was a traveling library furnished by the State Library in Denver. Once a week a small cabinet of books arrived by train and was dispensed from a grocery store by Mrs. Augusta Anderson, wife of a pioneer doctor. This was about 1919.

After this service was discontinued there was much discussion about getting a library in the community. It wasn't until September 1926 at a Federated Club meeting that a program was presented on how small towns build a library. A challenge was given that words be matched with deeds. Representatives from various organizations of the community met at the home of Mrs. C.A. Brayton to discuss the library. A motion was made: "Resolved, that a society be organized for the purpose of building a library in Ault". Thus the Ault Library came into being.

The Farmers National Bank offered to house the infant library until a building was secured, and Mrs. Jacob Hasbrouck, Sr., was elected to be the first librarian.

A building fund was started and in December 1927 two lots were purchased from Mr. Fred Graefe. With the aid of government funds and gifts from civic-minded residents, the present library building was built in 1936. The first open house was January 4th 1937. Mrs. Ethel Smith was the first librarian in the new building.

From the early traveling library, the Ault Public Library has grown to a library of over 4000 volumes and a circulation of over 6000. The services include a pre-school story time and a summer reading program. It is also a member of the High Plains Regional Library System.

In 1973 a new redwood sign, Ault Public Library, was placed in front of the building in memory of a library board member, Mrs. John H. Burroughs.

The members of the library board are Joseph Chick, Margaret Robinson, Dorothy Hoffner, Madeline Master-son, Paul La Borne, and Robert Burroughs, and Mrs. Allen Mauldin is the librarian.



A view of Aurora Public Library on a winter evening.

Aurora Public Library

In 1925 when the population of Aurora was 2,500, a small group of women formed the Women's Club of Aurora and immediately set out to build a public library. The members raised funds to purchase new books and eventually to pay rent for one small room at 1516 Dallas Street.

On January 1, 1929, the Women's Club Library opened to the public. It was received with enthusiasm by the entire community and the records indicate that in one month 906 persons used the library.

Then on October 28, 1929 the Women's Club presented to the city the library to be known as the Aurora Public Library. Records show that \$200 as well as 3,100 books were donated by the Women's Club.

The 1930's were not prosperous years and the city of Aurora, still small, did not derive great revenue from taxes. But during the late thirties and forties, the war years, the city began to grow rapidly and library demands grew as well. Instead of continuing to rent rooms at 1516 Dallas, the library decided to buy the Dallas Street property.

This event took place in October 1944, but with the late forties and fifties, the facility became overcrowded with books and people. The Volunteer Fire Department offered the lots at the corner of 16th and Elmira for a library building and a far-seeing mayor and city council solved the legal and technical difficulties in financing the new project.

During the next ten years, however, the city of Aurora again grew so rapidly that the Elmira Street premises became inadequate to serve the needs of the expanding population. In 1963, a new Library housing 50,000 volumes was erected on city land at 1298 Peoria Street. In 1968, this facility was expanded, doubling the space and, for the first time, offering the community the use of free meeting rooms.

In 1974 the citizens of Aurora approved funds to build a Branch Library in southeast Aurora on land donated by the Mission Viejo Real Estate Company. This new facility at 15324 East Hampden Circle was dedicated on August 10, 1975 and opened with a potential capacity of 70,000 volumes.

The present collection consists of approximately 90,000 volumes at the Main Library and 10,000 at the Branch, with additional volumes added each year. The library offers numerous other services to the citizens of Aurora.

In addition to meeting rooms, there are audio-visual materials, story hours, a homebound visiting librarian program, and other volunteer programs. Two book-mobiles make 24 stops in outlying areas to bring library service to those who find it inconvenient to use the other facilities.

Since 1960, when the Denver-Tri-County Reference Service was formed, the Aurora Public Library has consistently participated in local library systems.

In 1962 the JADA System was established in Jefferson, Adams, Denver, and Arapahoe Counties as a cooperative arrangement for the lending of books in the Denver Public Library to smaller public libraries.

Aurora participated in April 1966 with the newly established Arapahoe Regional Library District by acting as consultant on basic collections and staffing.

Aurora became pari of the Central Colorado Public Library System in November 1966 and also a participant in Wide Area Free Library Service (WAFLS). This service made any local public library card valid throughout the entire metro Denver area.

October 1975 saw the system change its name to Central Colorado Library System and terminate its connection with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). As part of CCLS, Aurora Public Library will continue providing library materials to all citizens as it has done from the beginning of its membership in library systems in Colorado.

Mary Brown was director of the Aurora Public Library from 1948 to 1977.

History by Yvonne M. Dulla

The Board of Trustees members are Tim Fox, Chairman, Lucille Patterson, Vice-Chairman, Cecilia Hammond, Secretary, Milton Janecsek, and Eda Mason.

Bailey Park County Public Library

From very small beginnings just ten years ago, the Park County Public Library has developed into a sound operation and a valuable service to the people who support it. The road was not an easy one at first, but there always seemed to be abundant friends when success appeared impossible. Money was scarce, books mostly donated, help untrained, and worst of all, there was no building in which to house the service.

Some time in the fall of 1965 the "library idea" really began to germinate. Two groups of interested people, one from the Fairplay area and one from Bailey met in Denver with staff members of the Colorado State Library to "get the ball rolling". In 1966 the library officially became a part of the government of the county when the first board of trustees was appointed. All through the growth period the State Library lent active support to the movement. Quantities of books were given to the county library, professional librarians taught volunteer workers library techniques including the processing of materials, and from time to time grants of "cold cash" were made available for general purposes and for special projects.

The Plains and Peaks Library System has provided much assistance to the county library from the shaky early days to the present time. Not the least of this help has been the purchasing and processing of materials and visits by the system librarian to confer with and instruct

library staff.

In 1966 before tax monies were made available to the Park County Public Library; support for the program came in generous amounts from individuals and organizations. One of the largest gifts (\$100.00) was made by Walter Berry of the firm of Berry and Starks. Approximately \$200.00 was raised in a benefit for bookmobile service by the Volunteer Platte Canyon Fire Department and by the ladies of the community who sponsored a bake sale. Of recent date \$350.00 was given to the library for the purchase of books for the new bookmobile by friends of the late Ned Shideler, the first bookmobile driver.

New life was breathed into the county library program on August 24, 1966 when one of the State Library bookmobiles was borrowed for a six month demonstration period. Citizen response to the mobile unit was enthusiastic, and the demonstration period for the vehicle was extended through 1968. At long last people in far-flung communities of Park County, like Lake George and Alma, had library service available to them on a bi-weekly basis. With circulation figures continuing to mount, the demonstration was extended under the auspices of the Plains and Peaks Library System through December, 1969. Then, on June 1, 1970 the bookmobile was purchased from the state for \$125.00. Today, Park County Public Library is the proud possessor of a brand new custom-build \$23,000.00 bookmobile.

Paralleling the expansion of the "books on wheels" program, the housing of library headquarters in Bailey "took a turn for the better". In 1969 the collection was moved from a long narrow donated room attached to the Bailey grocery store to three small but well-arranged rooms in the George New building. At long last the library could boast of a telephone and a rest room. Just four years later the walls of the first permanent quarters were bulging and new more adequate space was rented in an adjacent building. Today the library has outgrown its present location and some consideration is being given by the county commissioners to the erection of a county building which would house the library, somewhere in the Bailey area.

In 1972 administration of the library program "took a turn for the better" when a fully-trained professional librarian with many years of experience was hired.

The following are a few vital statistics of the library: First county support, 1967, \$2,423; County support, 1976, \$17,553; Total book stock, 1975, 7,315; Circulation 1975, 31,466; Registered borrowers, 1975, 1,082; Reference services, 1975, 2,210.

From very small beginnings, dependent on volunteer help and donated books, the county library has come of age, and looks forward to a bright future and increased usage. Just like one of the library's special projects, "Story Book Theater", the program in vast Park County seems to have developed almost like magic.

History courtesy of
Park County Public Library

The board of trustees members are Norma Landis, Chairman, Irene Tenney, Secretary, Margaret Chenoweth, Joan Wallis, and Cynthia Kixmiller.

Bayfield Pine River Public Library

Community participation was the establishing force of the library when the Bayfield Study Club formed the Bayfield Public Library in 1934. Because volunteer time was hard to schedule and the town had no building, the library became Town Hall and the Town Clerk became the librarian — hence regular hours for library service. The library and town business could at first be transacted in the back half of the defunct Farmer's and Merchants Bank Building with the Post Office renting the front half (for seventeen dollars a month).

By 1955 the library needed more room because the number of patrons grew very fast. So the Post Office rented all of the bank building and the library moved to the annex.

At the November 1972 general election, the Bayfield community voted to establish a library district, and to give a half-mill levy to support the library in serving the community.

A 1974 Colorado State Library Grant of \$1717.00 provided part of the shelving, seating and a desk. A 1975 \$1000.00 grant is providing money for an audio history of the locality. \$5000.00 from Ernest Salabar, a Pine River Pioneer, will provide a reading room and a stereo system where music or tapes recorded by local old-timers may be played. Vallecito and Gem Village, local clubs, and interested individuals, and memorial books have long provided the excellent collection of Southwest history, and also current nonfiction for the readers.

Through the Southwest Library System's subscription to McNaughton's rental books, current best-sellers grace the library shelves. Through local club participation, children's books are added to the collection.

Ten years of saving every possible cent from garage sales, memorial contributions, club donations and other money-raising projects made it possible to start today's renovations. 1776 square feet of carpeted space will soon be available for the public to serve as library and Town Hall.

At the present time LaVina Mars serves as Librarian. Opal Knickerbocker who supplied the information for this history has been a board member since 1943. The other board members are Winifred Walker, Lavenia McCoy, Ethel Purcell, Geneva Ryan, and Dorothy Badgley.

Berthoud Public Library

In 1930 Berthoud still had no public library. Since the lack of books and good reading material was felt by many, the Berthoud Woman's Club (CFWC) decided to establish a public library. Mrs. H.D. Williams was President of the club at that time, and under her leadership the project was financed by benefit teas, card parties, and donations from friends.

In May 1931 the library was opened to the public in the northeast room of the Old Grade School Building on Sixth Street. There were 800 books on the shelves. Miss Jane McCarty and Mrs. Williams were the first librarians.

Many were the struggles to find money for new books. The women worked hard, but the library fund remained small. Each new book was very carefully selected as these were depression years. Mrs. Williams gave pitch-parties

in her home at twenty-five cents a ticket. All money-raising devices known to women's clubs were employed to keep the book collection growing.

After two moves from the downstairs to the upstairs room of the school building and then to a vacant store building on Massachusetts Avenue, in 1951 the need for a permanent home for the library was recognized. The Town Hall had a spare room that had been used as a fire station. The Berthoud Woman's Club obtained a 99-year lease on this room from the Town Board for one dollar, had new book cases made, and in March 1952 the club women moved the library to its new home.

Increases in the number of books and patrons made this space inadequate, so an 18' x 32' addition was added to the east of the little room. Again this was spearheaded by the Woman's Club who raised money for the purchase of materials by money-making projects and by soliciting gifts from the townspeople and from former Berthoudites. With all-volunteer labor, much done by Dr. R. B. Fickel, the room was completed in 1963. A small kitchenette was furnished for the use of the Woman's Club meetings.

Since 1967 Larimer County has supported the library with annual funds as it does the Bookmobile and the other four libraries of the county.

In 1972 the Berthoud Public Library became a member of the High Plains Public Library System. The Town of Berthoud supports the library annually with a 1/2 mill levy.

In 1973 a second addition, the same size as the first addition, was completed at the same time that the addition to the Town Hall was made. Funds for this addition to the library came from the Berthoud Woman's Club, gifts from friends, and \$5000.00 Revenue Sharing Funds from Larimer County.

Although the library is now a municipal public library, it is still under the sponsorship of the Berthoud Woman's Club. The "librarians" who work in the library are all dedicated volunteers and non-salaried. Many have devoted many years to this community service. One who will always be remembered is Mrs. Frank S. Camp who worked in the library every week until after her ninetieth birthday. Mrs. W. B. Hardesty acted as head librarian from 1942 to 1952, taking over after Miss McCarty. Then Mrs. Hardesty was followed in 1952 by Mrs. John W. Waggener who served from 1952 to 1975.

Helen McCarty Fickel, who submitted this history, serves as librarian and chairman of the board of trustees. The other board members are Helen Waggener, Frances Nielson, Estelle Angelos, and Dorothy Dean.

Boulder Public Library

In 1882 the newly organized Women's Christian Temperance Union of Boulder had had enough. Wishing to provide a place where the "men and boys of the town could congregate without going into the saloons," the Union, largely under the forceful influence of Mrs. Clara Savory, opened a reading room in the Buckingham Bank Building, presently the site of the National State Bank at 13th and Pearl.

By going door-to-door and holding numerous suppers, concerts, and lectures, the ladies were able to boast of 16 monthly magazines, four daily newspapers and three weeklies.

Although popular during the first years of operation, use of the reading room diminished, and it became apparent that expanded facilities and a wider range of offerings were necessary. The reading room, now a library, was moved to the newly erected Willard Building at 12th and Spruce. The Boulder City Council also voted an operational allowance of \$50 per month.

In 1904 the City successfully interested the Carnegie Foundation in the need for a new building. The Foundation gave a gift of \$15,000 with the condition that \$1,500 per year be allotted from the City budget for maintenance. James McLaren was chosen as the architect and he designed the new library after the Grecian mode, as befitted the city's self image as "Athens of the West." The building was located at 1125 Pine St.

The library was formally opened on February 21, 1906. The same Mrs. Savory, original Union member and librarian for the first nineteen years, proudly pointed to the more than 3,000 volumes that lined the shelves.

As the town grew, so did its library, and by the 1920's 12,000 books comprised the collection. This exhausted the physical capacity in the Carnegie building. It wasn't until 1959, with 46,000 volumes bulging against the walls, that new funds were voted for library construction. In 1961 the present structure was dedicated at 1000 Canyon Blvd.



Boulder Public Library in its scenic location.

Claude Settlemire was hired in 1959, the first professional librarian to be employed by the city. Also in 1959 Marcelee Gralapp was hired as children's librarian. She later succeeded Settlemire in 1966 and has remained as director.

While the new building was designed for future growth, no one anticipated the doubling of the City's population during the 1960's. In 1964 the George Reynolds Branch was opened to serve the rapidly growing area in south Boulder. In 1971 a \$600,000 bond issue was passed for major expansion of the library to include a unique glassed-in bridge over Boulder Creek leading to the new addition. An expanded children's library was installed on the first floor of the addition and a new Media Center was located on the second floor. The Media Center circulates tapes, records and film, has facilities for listening and viewing and contains a small television studio. The studio is used to produce video tapes of local interest, such as instructional tapes on bicycle repair, and, anticipating the expansion of the local cable system, will house programming facilities for cable.

New areas made possible by expansion include the new Young Adults Programming Center and a room devoted to Colorado history. A large reference section is now incorporated with the Municipal Government Reference Center to provide easy access to a wide range of general and technical materials.

The library now contains about 140,000 volumes and subscriptions to over 1,000 periodicals. The staff numbers fifty full and part-time members.

History by James Heckel

The Board of Trustees members are Kenneth Charlton, Doris Hass, Bryan Morgan, Harriet Crowe, and Dennis DuBe'.

Broomfield Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library

The first meeting of a board of trustees to establish a public library for Broomfield was held December 2, 1959. A library board of trustees was appointed, the library became incorporated and by-laws were written in January 1960.

The Broomfield Star Builder offered space in its offices in the basement of the Leonard Building. Service clubs and organizations and other citizens of Broomfield donated books, desks, chairs, tables, a typewriter, and money. The Colorado State Library loaned the Broomfield Library 600-2,000 books at a time until the collection was established.

Space for more books soon became a problem and so the library moved to the vacant Aspen Cottage School in September 1960. Because the house soon sold to a private owner, the library was moved again in December to the basement of the Holly Cottage School. Since that too was sold, the library moved in September 1961 into a small office in the Manor Building. It shared the space with the Chamber of Commerce. Finally, in October 1961, after a city budget had been established, a paid library director was hired.

Early in 1962 land for a building was donated by Bal Swan and the Turnpike Land Company. The Library was moved into its own building on March 15, 1963.



Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library

On July 7, 1963 the library was dedicated in a public ceremony. Upon the request of Mr. Bal Swan, who also had appointed the architect, the library was renamed Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library. General and Mrs. Eisenhower were the honored guests. Other attending guests were state, county and local officials, plus 3,000 local citizens.

Library services were financed by a 1 1/2 mill city tax levy and some county funds until August 1973 when the State of Colorado allowed another 1/2 mill levy for local libraries. This helped to get a large addition to the building. In March 1975 the addition was completed, expanding the space from 3324 to 7224 square feet.

1974/1975 there was a 23% increase in circulation, from 76,000 to 97,191. 655 new families registered in 1974, and 903 in 1975. The budget for 1976 is \$91,427. The five member library board, Mrs. Jean Heath, Mr. James Hill, Mrs. Sharon Knappe, Mrs. Dorothy Moyer, and Mr. James Ocken. The librarians hope to furnish and staff a children's room in the basement of the library in 1976.

The twelve staff members, eight adults and four Junior-Senior High pages, keep the library open 56 hours per week.

Information by Mary Jane Bailey.

Brush Carnegie Library

Brush has one of the few Carnegie Libraries remaining in the state. The Woman's Club, organized in 1908, made the acquisition of a library one of its first and most important projects. Books were gradually collected from many donors and housed in one room of a public building. This was opened to the public in the afternoons with various volunteers from the club taking charge.

In 1913, the Town of Brush petitioned the Carnegie Foundation in regard to a library building. A favorable response was promptly received. The town at that time had a total valuation of \$600,000 which meant that the Carnegie Foundation would give \$6,000 for a building when their requirements were met. One of the conditions of the fund for the community was to provide 500 books. This became a town-wide effort. Records show that strange titles, such as *A Dictionary of Eskimo Phrases*, were collected, but the town met the required number of books. The Woman's Club staged a home talent show to raise money for more books, tables, chairs and desks. The long awaited library opened its doors to the public in August, 1915, though the tables and chairs arrived somewhat later.

The town voted \$600 per year for the upkeep of the library, and the first paid librarian was appointed.

As the town increased in size, and valuation increased, more money was made available. However, it was never quite enough for all the various needs. Two Tag Days were held, netting \$1,300. Bequests, memorial gifts, donations from individuals, organizations, and foundations helped to meet the increasing expenses. In recent years, grants from High Plains and the State Library have helped to bring various sections of the library up to date.

In 1952 the library was completely reorganized. Some 3,000 obsolete books were withdrawn and a modern card catalog set up. The weeding process, of course, is continuous.

At the end of 1975, the library had about 15,556 books, a great number of popular magazines, about 300 records - many of them children's records, and about 30 cassettes. In 1975 the library received a very valuable gift - a copying machine. Two recent grants have made possible a collection of oral history. This is still continuing. An enlargement of large print holdings is one of the future projects. Since the town has two nursing homes these are very much appreciated.

Although the library budget has grown from the first \$600 to \$9,565, it is still very dependent upon gifts and grants.

The Board of Trustees members are Calvin W. Leach, Chairman, Frances M. Anderson, Secretary, Bettye Paynter, Carol Leach, and Susan Balderston.

Compiled by Zelda Bates

Buena Vista Public Library

The Buena Vista Public Library was established in 1898. It was a project of the Buena Vista Fortnightly Club, CFWC.

At the meeting of the club on February 11, 1898, the library committee reported that books costing twenty-six dollars had been purchased for the library. A member of the committee volunteered to "care for the books for four dollars per quarter". This was considered impractical, and so it was arranged that each member would take care of the books for one month.

As the library grew, its location continued to be a problem. In 1911 the library contained 313 volumes and was housed in a corner of the DeBolt and Langdon Drug Store.

The Buena Vista Library Association was formed in 1916. Membership cost one dollar per year and entitled the member to the use of the library. A room for the library was rented in the Woodmen of the World Hall for \$60 per year, and a librarian was employed. At this time the library contained 500 volumes.

In 1923 the Fortnightly Club, the Lion's Club, and the Buena Vista Board of Trade cooperated in financing the building of a "lodge" on city park land. It was to include "a library room, a rest (sitting) room with a fireplace, a lavatory, and possibly a kitchenette."

On a stormy day in January 1924 the library was moved to its new quarters. The Fortnightly Club women loaded the books into boxes, baskets, and even into a wash boiler, and carried them from the Woodmen Hall to the Community Building.

The library remained there until 1969, when the building was demolished to allow for the widening of the highway through town. Temporary quarters were found in the old courthouse, a building belonging to the school district.

In 1971 the library received an LSCA Grant to assist in the construction of a new building. With matching city funds, a supplemental Federal grant, local donations, grants from the AMAX Corporation and the El Pomar Foundation, the new Buena Vista Public Library was built and furnished at a cost of \$86,000. It is located on city park land, measures approximately 3200 square feet and has space for 12,000 books.

The financial history of the Buena Vista Library shows a constant struggle for survival. Until 1967, the library

existed on a small yearly allotment from the Fortnightly Club, forty dollars a month from the town, revenue from the sale of cards, book fines, and endless money-making projects. In January 1967 the town assumed responsibility for the library, and a tax was levied for its support.

The last few years have brought a large increase in population outside the Buena Vista city limits. The city tax levy did not provide sufficient funds to meet the library needs of this expanding population. In 1974 the voters of the area approved a resolution to form the Northern Chaffee County Regional Library District. Funds from the district tax levy became available in 1976, and for the first time in its 78 year history, the library now has adequate financial support.

The history of the Buena Vista Public Library reflects the dedication of one small group of women. With very little help, the members of the Buena Vista Fortnightly Club maintained a public library for the community for almost seventy years. The library of today is their legacy to the Buena Vista area.

History by Martha Thomas

The Board of Trustees members are Dora Krocesky, Chairman, Elly Fithian, Secretary, Gerald Parsons, Eric Brookens, and Sheila Shaw.

Burlington Public Library

The history of the Burlington Public Library is a story of the unwavering faith and dreams of its founders. Mrs. Arthur Wilson who was determined that the town should have a library, sold her idea to the Inter Sese Club in 1921. On March 24 of that year a library committee was appointed by Mrs. D. Carnahan, President, to make plans. Mrs. Wilson was named chairman. To get the program off the ground, the club voted \$50 to the project, and each of its 30 members promised to earn \$5 during the summer. October 1 was set as the date for opening the library.

During that busy and hectic summer, members of the Inter Sese Club solicited funds from organizations and individuals, and sponsored a public birthday party, a book shower, a lawn fete and numerous benefits.

The library opened on schedule in a room in the public school with Miss Amy Petefish serving as librarian. The library board was hard pressed to secure funds to operate the library, and more benefits were held. Among these were a wolf and rabbit drive and a local production of *The Merchant of Venice*. In 1923 a small museum was added to the library, and a Governor's Shelf was established when Governor Oliver H. Shoup contributed several autographed books to the collection. Since Governor Shoup's administration every chief executive of the state has presented at least one autographed book to this special collection.

The first major set-back experienced by the library occurred when the school burned in 1923 during the Christmas vacation. Most of the collection and equipment was saved, but the library was left homeless, and the books had to be stored. Through the efforts of Mayor Kukuk and the town council new quarters were provided by the city in the west side of the old power house, and the library was re-opened on February 11, 1924.

May 1, 1925 the city assumed control of the library and agreed to support it through taxation. With the change in

organization, the mayor became ex-officio president of the board. By action of the town council a levy of one mill was set to finance the library and the charge for library cards for residents of Burlington was dropped. In 1933 the library acquired additional space in the building in which it was housed, and was able to increase its services to the community.

In the 1940's the library was active in the Victory Book Campaign and shipped 325 books to Sloan Field, Midland, Texas. The shipment included new books, purchased at a cost of \$75 which was contributed by Burlington citizens.

In 1935 a building fund was established. As the years passed it grew from \$50 to \$20,000 and on October 8, 1958 ground was broken for a modern library building on lots purchased by the board of trustees at Senter Avenue and 15th. A handsome cornerstone was purchased and a colorful ceremony conducted by the Zonta Club on February 15, 1959. Complete with new furniture, purchased with money contributed by eleven service and social clubs, the green and pink cathedral stone building was dedicated and presented to the city on April 12, 1959, the first day of National Library Week. The Quo Vadis Club which raised \$900 for new furnishings arranged the dedication program and the reception which followed.

In 1959 holdings of the library numbered approximately 6,000 volumes, and large selections of supplementary materials were borrowed from the new book collection of the Northeast Demonstration Library which was a project of the State Library.

By 1976 the remodeling and expansion was completed. The north half of the library which was occupied by a museum is now the new children's reading room. The new painting, carpet, drapes, return book slot, filing cabinets, and book racks are other welcome improvements.

The board of trustees has now changed the bylaws to read that the term of a trustee shall be 5 years.

After the retirement of Mrs. Wilson, Norma Bandel, who provided the information for the recent history, is serving as the chairman. Other board members are John Swick, Dorothy Beethe, Pamela Levitt, and Alene Havis.

Canon City Public Library

In 1886 a group of energetic women in Canon City raised money for a public library by giving teas, bazaars, suppers, and by door-to-door canvassing. In 1901 the city requested funds from Andrew Carnegie for the erection of a library building. He was asked to purchase building lots and maintain the library in the future. The response from Mr. Carnegie was prompt and a check for \$10,000 was soon received. The present building was started and later Mr. Carnegie provided an additional \$3,000.

In 1902 the new building was ready for occupancy and in 1903 the library was turned over to the city fathers. The building was redecorated in 1947-48; a new roof was installed, and the interior and exterior were painted.

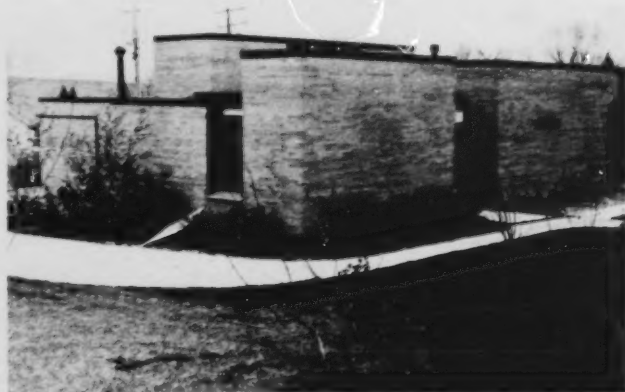
In 1962 Mrs. Theodore (Alice) Harding donated a \$750 card catalog cabinet as a memorial to her mother. The same year a \$750 grant from the State Library was received for filing of books and for salaries. Also the Friends of the Library donated new books worth \$200.

Today the library boasts a collection of 35,719 volumes and a yearly circulation of 57,911. The library is kept open

52 hours per week.

Mrs. Alice McKellar retired June 1, 1968, after serving for 50 years with the Canon City Public Library.

At the present time Karen Nelson serves as librarian. The board of trustees members are Donna Chappell, Cathy Rigiroszi, Lynn Boughton, Velpo Lester, Mark Merry, Carol Dunn, and Kevin Cummings.



Douglas County Public Library, Castle Rock

Douglas County Public Library Castle Rock

The Douglas County Public Library opened on December 10, 1968, after 2½ years of organized community effort with the cooperation of the Douglas County Commissioners and the Colorado State Library.

Located between Denver and Colorado Springs, 100-year-old Douglas County is a large, predominantly rural county which has been experiencing growth and change with the development of neighboring urban areas.

By 1966 the county's only public library service was provided by a bookmobile on loan from the Colorado State Library and under the jurisdiction of the county school district. That year, a local P.T.A. chose library service as a primary topic, and contacted the State Library for information regarding school and public library development. Learning of new programs, notably the public library system concept, a small group of parents organized a public meeting in the county courthouse to address the question of county library service. Discussion resulted in 2 crucial decisions: appointment by the county commissioners of a Library Planning Commission which would determine costs and feasibility of county library service, and founding of a Friends of the Library which would seek community support and contributions.

In response to the Planning Commission's report, the commissioners established county library funding: \$5,000 the first year, 1967, with anticipated annual increases. The first library board was appointed in April 1967, and at the first meeting was presented with an offer, from a prominent local citizen, of \$25,000 for construction of a new library building. A matching federal grant was approved, and ground was broken on August 10, 1968 — exactly one year after a small, rented storefront library opened to the public with a part-time librarian and the small collection of books from the original bookmobile. Service was augmented by the Plains and Peaks Public

Library System, then a pilot project. Because of Douglas County's Denver orientation, the library was subsequently admitted to the Central Colorado Public Library System.

When the new headquarters facility in Castle Rock opened in December 1968, two small branches in Parker and Louviers were beginning to circulate books. Both branches have greatly expanded, as has a third branch, Perry Park, which opened in 1975.

The Friends of the Library, meanwhile, raised funds and publicized county library news in all area papers, and were rewarded by national recognition: Honorable Mention in the 1967 John Cotton Dana Publicity Awards Contest, with the citation, "For winning community support for establishment of county library service in a sparsely populated area."

Rapidly growing services soon indicated a pressing need for expansion, and once more a building fund was established with State Library cooperation, individual donations and community support led by the Friends of the Library. On February 1, 1976, the dedication of an addition to the main library celebrated the tripling of library space, and the promise of increasing library resources for a steadily growing county.

The trustees are Mrs. M. H. W. Ritchie, Mrs. Lucille Robertson, Mr. Roger DeVries, Mr. Robert Terwilleger, Mrs. Verlene White, and Mrs. Susan Moore.

History by Genevieve Mead

Cheyenne Wells

American Legion Auxiliary Library Unit 126

The Cheyenne Wells Public Library was established in 1908 by Don Sears as a memorial to his son. At first the library was located in an old school building. In 1909 it was moved to a new school building and later to the courthouse where it was operated by the Red Cross.

On May 23, 1929 the books and equipment were purchased by the American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary earned money to operate the library by serving lunches at public dances, holding card parties and selling library cards for \$1 per year or 25¢ every three months. The fees have remained the same until 1970.

In 1936, at the time of the food commodity distribution program during the Depression, all available space in the Courthouse was needed for storage, and so the library was again moved to the basement of the old Post Office. Rent was \$6 a month. The V. F. W. helped to furnish heat and the City paid for the lights and donated \$25 for books. The present City Hall was completed in 1939 with a room designated for the library, and in 1941 the new space was occupied.

In 1968 the City purchased and completely remodeled the old Mountain States Telephone building. The ESA and the Rainbow Extension Club assisted in classifying the books and helped with moving the library to the new location on May 4, 1969.

Members of the Auxiliary, Anne Martinson, Lola Coe, Bernice Denison, and Margaret Moyer, donate their time to process the books and keep the library open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and also serve as board members.

Compiled by Anne Martinson and Lola Coe

Colorado Springs Pikes Peak Regional Library District

The town of Colorado Springs was incorporated in 1872, but a "public library" was operating in the community in 1863 to 1865 with books purchased by public contribution. It soon disappeared, but in the '70's the Y.M.C.A. maintained a small collection of books in a store building, and later a Mrs. Garstin established a circulating library of 2,000 volumes.

On October 5, 1885 the following notice appeared in the local newspaper:

When it was ascertained that the Y.M.C.A. had ceased to keep a free reading room in Colorado Springs, a few gentlemen and ladies organized themselves into a union called the Colorado Springs Social Union, for the purpose of keeping open such a room, where good literature might be furnished free to anyone wishing to read.

The Y.M.C.A. turned over to this union their reading room and books. Mrs. Garstin also contributed most of her books to the new library. Five hundred dollars was pledged and the rooms were opened. In 1890 the name of the organization was changed to Free Library and Reading Room Association.

The library traveled from one location to another until 1903, when it became the Colorado Springs Public Library. On that date Mrs. Ehrich, president of the Library Association, and Mayor Robinson succeeded in obtaining a gift of \$60,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a library building, providing the city appropriate \$6,000 a year for maintenance. The building site was the gift of General William J. Palmer. General Palmer and other citizens made generous donations for books. The new library was opened in 1905 with about 12,000 volumes.

The library was operated in this building until 1968. By then it had increased to 176,885 volumes and a budget of \$366,000 a year.

Before 1964 two branches supplemented service. The West Side Branch was added in 1917 when Colorado City was annexed to Colorado Springs. In 1960 the Verner Z. Reed Library became a part of the library system, and continued until 1968.

In 1962 a vote of qualified electors residing in El Paso County, except Manitou Springs and School District #3, Security, voted favorably on a permissive measure implementing the establishment of the Pikes Peak Regional Library District. In 1963 the implementation was carried out and a regional library tax levied.

With establishment of the Pikes Peak Regional Library District in 1964 the Community Libraries of Palmer Lake, Ute Pass and Black Forest became branches. Two more bookmobiles were added with the 1954 bookmobile continuing to serve outlying city areas. In 1973 East Branch opened and a deposit library was begun at Russell Junior High School. Monument Hill Branch opened in 1975. The library also maintains a collection in the El Paso County Jail.

Because of the tremendous growth of Colorado Springs in the 1950's and 1960's a new library was needed.



*Penrose Public Library,
Colorado Springs. Photo by Stewarts, Colorado Springs.*

On February 12, 1966 El Pomar announced a \$2.3 million grant to construct a new library to be called the Penrose Public Library in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Penrose. The library was dedicated July 15, 1968. In 1969 the renovation of the old Colorado Springs Public Library was completed and houses the Western History Collection and meeting rooms.

At the end of 1974 Mrs. Margaret Reid retired as the head of the Pikes Peak Regional Library District. During her tenure as Head Librarian from 1949 to 1974 the budget increased from \$46,000 to one million dollars and the book collection from 77,000 volumes to nearly a quarter million volumes.

Mr. Kenneth E. Dowlin was named the new Library Director on March 1, 1975.

The library has increased its emphasis on Information Services and the use of computer technology to provide service to the public.

The Board members are Mr. Tom McLaughlin, Mr. Field W. Bohart, Mr. C. Keith Riddoch, Mrs. Fred E. Kyer, and Mrs. Betty M. Harvey.

History courtesy of
Pikes Peak Regional Library District Staff

Cortez Public Library

The Cortez Public Library was founded in 1929 as a project and major interest of the Ute Mountain Study Club. Its early development was coincident with the great depression, and for this reason more than casual support was required. Therefore, the Study Club sponsored many money raising programs to which the community responded generously. Some assistance was given by the Civic Club, the Columbine Reading Club, the ETC Club and the Beta Sigma Phi sorority. All local organizations gave moral support, and the newspapers and radio station provided good publicity.

The library was opened in the basement of the school gymnasium with a small stock of books donated by the members of the disbanded Reading Club. The high school added its modest collection and book showers brought in a number of volumes.

For the first few years club members and high school girls served as volunteer librarians. The library was then approved by NYA on a job-training basis, and several

young women were given elementary training and served as librarians. During this period a drive was initiated to acquire a new building. In 1935 the library moved into a club-owned sandstone building which was erected with WPA labor. The library was also rented for church services and schoolroom use. Occasionally the town furnished needed repairs and in 1940 agreed to pay the salary of a part-time librarian.

From its beginning in 1929 the library was supported by the Ute Mountain Study Club. Gradually, however the city council assumed full financial responsibility and in 1949 began paying the salary of a full time trained librarian.

To supplement the collection, 150 books from the State Library were packed in a green trunk and sent, free of charge, every six months. As soon as they were returned another shipment arrived. The arrival of each trunk load was an exciting event for the library. The Cortez Library was serving a four state area on a limited basis. There were borrowers from Shiprock, New Mexico, Teec Nos Pas, Arizona, Monticello, Utah, as well as from Dolores County in Colorado.



Cortez Public Library.

In 1955 the new city hall was extended to incorporate the original library building, and the library was given a large well-lighted room fronting Main street in exchange for the basement of the original library building. No longer did the soot have to be blown off the book tops before the business of the day began — clean gas replaced a puffing oil furnace.

Under the leadership of Maryellen Brubaker, the present library has expanded the facilities to include such services as photostatic copying, information by telephone, and inter-library loan.

In observance of the Centennial, Bi-Centennial the Library is sponsoring the American Issues Forum once a month.

In 1958 the mayor appointed the first official library board. At the present time the Board members are Mrs. C.K. Herndon, Mrs. Donald L. Johnson, Mr. C.C. Griswold, Mr. Joe Jarvis, and Mrs. Marie Fredrick, who also provided the information for the most recent history.

Craig-Moffat County Library

A library has been in existence in Craig since 1908, when Mrs. Rosetta Webb borrowed books from the Traveling Library Association and a reading room was

opened in the Webb Hotel, which stood at the main intersection of Craig.

In a few years, a Library Association was organized and the incorporation of the Craig Public Library was completed on July 25, 1912. Through the years books were donated by interested citizens. The books were moved to two other location as the town grew. In October of 1919, the library began to receive funds from the city in the amount of 1 mill. It was then possible to purchase some of the books.

The first two lots of the present location were purchased in 1914 for \$300. The money was collected by social events and subscriptions from almost everyone in town. The second two lots were purchased in 1952 for \$1,500.

The first library building on these new lots was bought in late 1925 for \$6000.00 plus \$200.00 for moving it and installing heat and water. It had been the first Craig School House, then the Catholic Church. By the first of June 1926, the building was ready and the 5,000 books were moved. In 1928 an addition was attached to the building. It is reported that there were curtains at the windows and several cushioned rocking chairs, an extension dining table and kitchen chairs, and a roll-top desk for the librarian, Mrs. Webb. An ornate chandelier hung from the center of the ceiling, and over the book shelves pictures of famous men, an elk head, an Indian skull, an albatross breast and other trophies were on display.

During the Depression, in 1932, the city was forced to withdraw the funds, and the library had to be closed. However, it was re-opened in 1933 when Chapter AJ of the PEO Sisterhood took over with volunteer help and the city paying for the lights and fuel. Books were again being donated and the library was open three afternoons a week. It was about this time that the books were catalogued, using the Dewey Decimal System and filed according to title and author.

When financial matters of the city were better, in 1935, a small sum was voted to the library for expenses and a new board took over.



In 1952 the City-County Library was organized and the present building was built with the city and county sharing the cost. In October 1953 the new \$29,000 building was occupied. The old building, after being used 27 years as a library, was moved from its location soon after that. When the library became a city-county partnership, the board of trustees was set up to include five city members, serving five year terms.

In April 1965-12 years later- it was decided that the library needed more room. The architect for the original building drew plans for the addition and it was completed and opened in April of 1967. For the first time, the library had new furniture and furnishing sufficient for its needs.

In January 1971 the library in Maybell, founded 1911, became a branch of the Craig-Moffat County Library. It is open one afternoon a week and work is done on a volunteer basis by the members of the Maybell Women's Club.

In 1975 plans were drawn to enlarge and expand the present facility. Two city lots to the north were purchased with this expansion in view. This building will not be done immediately but will remain a goal for the future.

History courtesy of
The Trustees of the Library

The nine trustees are Mrs. S.V. Beckett, Mrs. Gary Neptune, Mrs. Mike Wilson, Mrs. C.A. Stoddard, Jr., Mrs. Neal McKinstry, Mr. L.C. Buffham, Mrs. Stephen Biskup, Mrs. J. Hamill, Mrs. Rod Peck, and Mrs. Ben Dollarhide.

Cripple Creek Franklin Ferguson Memorial Library

In the late 1800s a literary club, called the Cripple Creek Fortnightly Society, was founded. The officers were Mr. E.C. Stimson and Mrs. C.G. Moore. This was the beginning of the Cripple Creek Library. How the library developed is not known at the time of this writing, for dates are not available.

For many years the library had been sponsored by the Cripple Creek Women's Club with the assistance of the city council, B.P.O.E. #316, and other civic organizations and individuals. Mrs. Nellie Ferguson acted as a volunteer librarian for many years.

Much later Franklin Ferguson, a mayor and civic-minded businessman, became responsible for maintaining the building and for helping to arrange the finances for the library. After his death the library was closed.

In August 1974 Mrs. Elizabeth Ringo, a high school English teacher, and Mrs. Jeanne Owen, System Librarian of the Plains and Peaks Public Library System, presented a request to the city council for the re-opening of the Cripple Creek Public Library. On September 6, 1974 the council unanimously approved a cooperative venture with the Plains and Peaks Public Library System to re-open the library.

In honor of Franklin Ferguson, the council voted to name the library the Franklin Ferguson Memorial Library.

In 1974 five members were appointed to the library board by the council: James Tolbert, Mary Roberts, Maura Robertson, Pauline Sharpe, and Jo Warden. The library was re-opened in January 1975 with volunteers working under the supervision of Mrs. Jeanne Owen.

At this time plans were under consideration for the building of a new school in Cripple Creek, combining grades Kindergarten through 12. Mr. Lester Mundy, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Jeanne Owen approached the library board about the possibility of combining the public library and school media center and applying for grants to enable the district to employ a professional librarian and to obtain the best library and media facilities for the community. A meeting with mem-

ber of the Colorado State Library and the Franklin Ferguson Memorial Library Board was held in March to explore these possibilities. An Interim Committee, comprised of members of the school board and of the library board and school faculty members, was appointed.

A ½ mill levy, voted by the city council, allocation from the Teller County Board of Commissioners, the Elks Lodge, and money raised by the library board and staff through Book and Bake and White Elephant Sales provided finances for the operation of the library.

McNaughton books and interlibrary loans were made available, and books were added to the collection by the system and donated by various individuals. The Plains & Peaks System obtained an LSCA Title I grant for \$10,187.22 from the State Library for Cripple Creek.

On April 1, 1975 a \$1.8 million bond issue to build the new school building was passed by the citizens of Cripple Creek and Victor. Through the continued and consistent efforts of Jeanne Owen and Mr. Mundy, with cooperation of the library board and the city council, an LSCA Title I grant of \$14,900 was obtained. In July a professional librarian, Robin Gettelman, was hired. The public library collection was moved into the new school. The combined library-media center was opened for patrons and dedicated at the school dedication ceremonies on January 11, 1976.

Compiled by R. Gettelman



Crook Community Library

Crook Community Library

The Crook Community Library began in October 1928, when the Women's Club of Crook, twelve members, sponsored it as a club project. A box of books was sent by the Colorado Traveling Library Service and kept in the Loizeaux Hotel. Later the books were moved to the small room in the Town Hall building.

In May 1929 \$10 was expended for new books. One of the first books purchased was the "History of Logan County", by Emma Burke Conklin. Throughout the years former and present residents have donated many books and funds, and various fund raising events have been held with enthusiastic community participation. Memorial books have been donated by the club for those who have passed away, and honor books for members who have moved from the community.

In 1930 a librarian was employed for twenty-five cents an afternoon, the funds having been donated by the members of the Crook Lions Club, who were faithful contributors for many years. Through the years some librarians were employed while others were volunteers.

In 1967 and 1968 the Crook World War Veterans financed the modernization of the Town Hall, and this provided much larger space for the library and a room for town meetings. The club members purchased the furnishings and draperies.

Various programs and themes have been featured for library day including the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the club and an Open House in 1968. In 1975 Mrs. Fern Roush was honored for her ten years of dedicated service as librarian. This year, 1976, the Centennial-Bicentennial theme will be in evidence with the program of "The History of Crook".

The club members have volunteered many hours to make the library facilities available to interested residents.

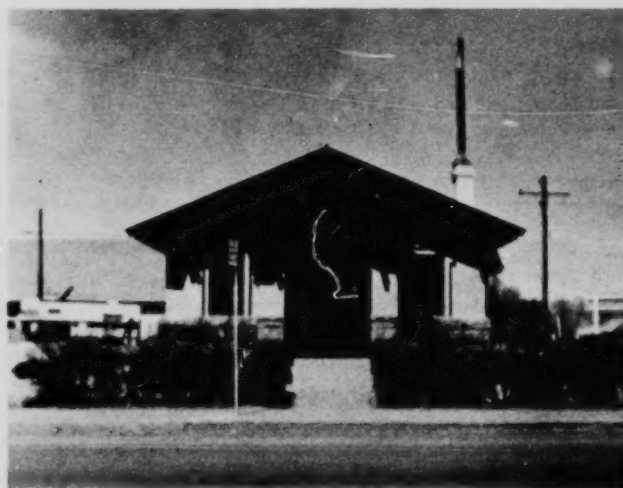
In recent years a copier, a duplicating machine, an adding machine, a cassette player and recorder, and a projector have been purchased. The money came from two memorial funds as well as from different agencies.

The library is under the jurisdiction of the Crook Town Board members and a member of the High Plains Regional Library System. The librarian and the five member board of trustees are members of the Women's Club of Crook. The trustees are Mrs. Lydia Mehl, chairman, Mrs. Janet Tuell, Mrs. A.E. Brede, Mrs. Joycelyn Rhodes, and Mrs. Beatrice Snow.

Compiled by Lydia Mehl

Del Norte King's Daughters Library

A national beneficent organization, the King's Daughters, founded the Del Norte library in 1899. The first collection was in the home of a Del Norte dentist's wife, Mrs. S.A. Thomas. All the books were contributed by people of Del Norte, and many were given by the professors of the Presbyterian College of the Southwest located in Del Norte. Mrs. Thomas contributed one day a week to the library. Later the library became too large for her home and was moved to a room above the present Abstract Office.



In 1905 when another move was necessary the King's Daughters purchased the Whedon Building for \$100. Since that building did not have a rear wall, the ladies were obliged to build a partition across the center. The front half was used for the library, while the back served as a storage place for wood which was used as fuel.

The King's Daughters wanted a more adequate and permanent building for their library, and a building fund was started for that purpose. In November 1914 Mr. August Weiss donated the land for the building, and for the next few years the ladies held bazaars, cake sales, and election dinners to raise money. The present structure which is located on the corner of Oak and Grand was completed November 11, 1915.

One of the first librarians and also a founder of the library was Mrs. Flora Haffy. Through her inspiration and unselfish efforts the library became a reality. The other women who also gave much time and effort to the project were Mrs. Maude Gibbs and Mrs. Annie Hobson.

In January 1939 fourteen cards were issued and 100 books borrowed. In 1942 the collection was improved by ordering the first children's books.

In 1971 the library was incorporated. Since that date, the library has been supported by donations, bazaars, bake sales, plant sales, and by the hard work of the women in the community who feel that it is so very important that the town have a library.

Every summer for 2 months a reading program is held for children.

During Mrs. Louis Chenoweth's term as librarian a Memorial Book program was instituted which has contributed many valuable books.

The library now has over 14,000 books for circulation. One of the outstanding features of the King's Daughters Library is the section on the San Luis Valley and Colorado.

Miss Rosemary Evans, who compiled the most recent history, serves on the Board of Trustees. The other members are Miss Jean Evans, Mrs. Jane Martin, and Miss Juanita Valdez.

Delta County Public Library

In 1909 the Delta Woman's Club started a campaign to raise money to build a small library. By private subscription the club managed to acquire a sum of \$3,400.

After this rather large amount of capital was collected, negotiations were commenced with Andrew Carnegie. Following a year of correspondence, the millionaire philanthropist's secretary sent word that Mr. Carnegie would provide the Woman's Club with the additional funds required. Accompanying the letter was a contract, the main provisions of which were:

1. The library must be built of stone or pressed brick and cost not less than ten thousand dollars.
2. Assessment by the city on the valuation of property must be sufficient to maintain the institution.

When the contract was signed Mr. Carnegie sent his draft for sixty-five hundred dollars and the county donated the site for the building. Now the work begun by the Woman's Club could be completed, and a city library was constructed after more than three years of work, hardship and struggle.

The building was designed in a rectangle, 50 feet long and 25 feet wide. The main entrance, flanked by Corin-

thian columns, faces east. Today the single main floor room contains the adult collection. The children's department is housed in the basement along with a small workroom and a small magazine room.

On May 20, 1912, Mayor C.E. Lippert dedicated the new structure. Mr. Starr Nelson officially accepted the library on behalf of the city. Friends of the library donated 400 volumes to the new center of culture, and on dedication day 100 additional books were presented to the library. Miss Anna Nutter was appointed the first librarian.

By 1949 the city was providing six hundred dollars per year for books and magazines, but even so sufficient volumes were not available to satisfy the needs of patrons. With the aid of Colorado State Library loans and a gift of five hundred dollars, bequeathed to the library by Charles Marelius in 1950, more books were made available to fill the shelves.

In 1961 a major refurbishing project was undertaken with the ceilings lowered, modern lighting fixtures, new floor coverings and a glass and aluminum entrance added. All this was made possible by funds willed to the library by Dr. Erich.

However, the future of the library remained bleak, and the Delta City Council budgeted only sufficient funds to maintain bare utilities. Throughout the sixties some forty men and women felt so strongly the need of a library that they volunteered their time to keep the door open. What they didn't know about a library they made up in enthusiasm while seeking another source of funding. In 1969 petitions were circulated requesting the 1½ mill levy allowed by law to support library services. Before the petitions were complete the Delta County Commissioners were attempting to pass a county-wide sales tax and agreed that if the sales tax were passed the libraries in the county would be allocated a percent of the sales tax for library maintenance. The sales tax was passed, and since July 1970 the four libraries in the county — Delta, Cedaredge, Hotchkiss, and Paonia — have been receiving a portion of the county-wide sales tax.

In 1974 Delta's library received two thousand dollars from the Library Development Services Unit of the Colorado State Library to purchase vocational education books. Consequently Delta now has one of the best, up-to-date vocational libraries in Western Colorado.

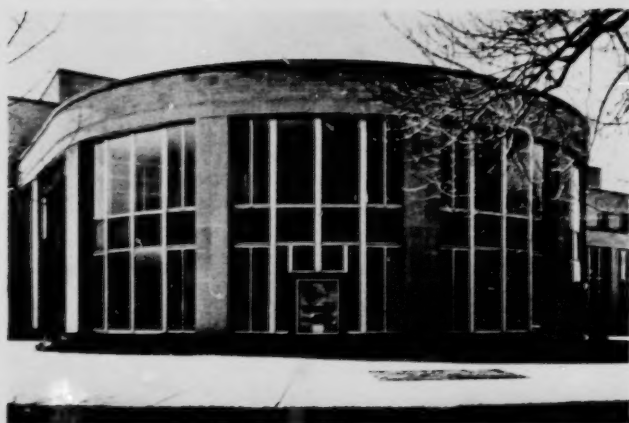
The library has a small record collection, a microfilm file of all newspapers printed in Delta, and a collection of large-print books for people with impaired vision. Its services to the community include free films for local nursing homes, service for shut-ins, a summer reading program, and story hours for children.

For many years the library has used the services of the Bibliographical Center for Research.

With Colorado State Library grants, memorials and other contributions, the collection has grown to some 15,500 volumes. Circulation and library services are at an all-time high, and it is apparent that the library is outgrowing its space.

Throughout the years the Delta Public Library has had four librarians: Anna Nutter, Eveline Nutter, Julia Macias, and Esther J. Stephens. At the present time the board members are Ethel Jackson, Chairman, Edith Blide, Edna Campbell, Morgan Hendrickson, and Betty Worley.

Information by Esther J. Stephens



Denver Public Library

Denver Public Library

Denver City, first called Auraria City, was founded in 1858. In 1860 the Denver City and Auraria Reading Room was formed. The growth of Denver has been reflected by the parallel growth of the Denver Public Library system.

Between 1872 and 1878 four different attempts were made to organize and maintain a library. The one which succeeded was located in the Old Arapahoe High School Library. The defunct Denver Library Association contributed its books and the public was allowed to use material in the library, but material was not circulated.

In 1882 the "new" East Denver High School was opened, with a "Public Library of Denver" as a part of the facility. In 1889, public monies were made available for the continuing purchase of books for the library, and John Cotton Dana joined the institution as Librarian. Dana introduced open shelving, the purchase of popular editions rather than rare imprints, and a library area specifically designed for use by children.

Another library was also in existence in Denver at the same time. It was funded by Denver businessmen in the Chamber of Commerce, and opened in 1886 as the Mercantile Library. The name was later changed to City Library.

By 1898 the City Library and the East High School Public Library had grown considerably. The two libraries were consolidated into a single institution, but were housed in many different buildings over the subsequent years.

In 1904 a City Charter was approved, with provisions for establishment of a Library Commission and the separation of library funds from general funds. It was not until 1910 that the library staff saw the completion of their Denver Public Library. Partly financed through Carnegie funds, the building, which is still standing, has the traditional look of a "Carnegie Library," which was popular during the day.

Chalmers Hadley was awarded the post of head librarian, and under his direction library finances were clarified, intensive staff training was begun, and the creation of the library branch system was undertaken.

Hadley resigned in 1924, and his colleague, Dr. Malcolm G. Wyer, was appointed Librarian. Wyer emphasized the need for the Denver Public Library development as a centralized resource for the Rocky Mountain area. He expanded, and received grants for, the now internationally famous Western History Department, es-

tablished the Bibliographical Center, a regional Union Catalog and locator agency, encouraged the expansion of the Adult Education Council, and guided the fortunes of the library through the Depression.

In 1947 John T. Eastlick joined the Denver Public Library; in 1951 he assumed the post of City Librarian upon the retirement of Dr. Wyer. From 1951 to 1969 the number of library facilities doubled, and the storefront and bookmobile services were also expanded. Eastlick and the Denver Public Library Commission supervised all planning, purchasing and construction connected with the new library which opened its doors in 1956.

In 1963 Henry G. Shearouse, Jr. joined the Denver Public Library; in 1969, he was appointed City Librarian. Today the Main Library houses over one million books, and another one million government publications. More than 500,000 books are housed in branch and storefront libraries, which now total 21. The library has inaugurated a number of innovative programs, such as On Your Own, designed to assist the self-directed learner.

The eight trustees are Edward Miller, Chairman, Cyrus A. Hackstaff, Mrs. Jack Wetzner, Richard P. Brown, Mrs. Nick Frangos, Mrs. Albert Salazar, Paul A. Yetter, and Robert Perkin.

Compiled by Mrs. Nancy C. Casey

Dolores Public Library

When the Dolores Town Hall was built in 1955, members of the Dolores River Garden Club asked for a room in which they might start a library. Dolores had never had a public library. The Board agreed and donated the room and utilities.

Harry Morgan, who was dismantling a retail store, gave shelves and counters. Other shelves were built by three local men. The first books were presents from home libraries. The Garden Club sponsored several fundraising events in order to have some financial help.

Mary Lee Larson was our first librarian. She learned library procedure through help from the Colorado State Library. State Library consultants taught filing, advised on book buying, and sent books on loan. The personal contacts with members of the State Library were very helpful.

When the Southwest Library System was formed in 1968, Dolores Public joined, although reluctantly at first, fearing it would hurt the status of an individual library. It has, however, been of great help.

The first regular support was from the town of Dolores. Additional support has come from the State Library and from Montezuma County.

Until 1975, members of the Board of Trustees were Garden Club members, although they were not a sponsoring body. Now the Board consists of persons with a knowledge of library procedures and/or having a special interest in books. Two of the original members remain.

The current librarian, Mary Dufur, succeeded Mary Lee Larson in 1966.

Two members of the Dolores Public Library Board have been Chairmen of the Southwest System Councils, Mary Jane McRae and Leona McCabe. Mrs. McCabe is also on the Colorado Council for Library Development.

The collection now totals over 7,000 volumes, and the library is rapidly running out of space.

Trustees are Mary Jane McRae, Leona McCabe, Marilyn Pleasant, Nell Miller, and Charlotte Rising.

Compiled by Mary Jane McRae

Dolores County
Public Library,
Children's Branch.
Dove Creek



Dolores County
Public Library,
Adult Branch.
Dove Creek



Dolores County
Public Library,
Rico

Dove Creek Dolores County Public Library

Actual public library service has existed in Dolores County for a length of time that is quite indeterminable. For some years, through the courtesy of the Colorado State Library, books have been mailed on a regular basis to the west end of Dolores County to an area called Northdale, to a private home. There the books were made available to the neighbors. Even though the county now has a public library in Dove Creek, this service is still extended to this isolated portion of the county by the Southwest Library System.

In Rico, the isolated east end of the county, adults have been able to go to the school library for as long as anyone can remember, to check out books shelved there through the efforts of the citizens of the town. These books were primarily donations from Rico citizens and their friends. How long the Rico Public Library had actually been in existence, no one is really sure; it's just one of those things that has always been around.

In 1970 a group of interested citizens from Dove Creek made a concerted effort to establish a county library for the entire county. In that same year, the county held a vote to determine whether or not to have the county-wide library, under existing state library laws. The measure was successful and five citizens from throughout the county were appointed by the Commissioners. Subsequently an agreement was made with the county school board to share facilities with the schools. That is, the county school board agreed to allow the county library to use the three existing school libraries. The Southwest Library System, the Colorado State Library, and San Juan County supplied several hundred books.

The small county library budget is divided among the three libraries; the high school in Dove Creek, the elementary school in Dove Creek, and the Rico Public School, now the only full-service library in the county.

In 1974 a grant was made available to the county library. Considerable improvements were made in equipment, shelving, and in updating the collection.

Dolores County is a large county geographically, with only 1600 people scattered over a wide area. It is not feasible from an economic standpoint to have additional facilities solely for county library patrons; therefore the county library and the county school continue their relatively unique cooperative efforts.

The trustees are Mrs. E. McRae, Mrs. Ross Thomas, Mrs. Lawrence Pleasant, Mrs. Stanley McCabe, Mrs. P.W. Miller, Mrs. Charlotte Rising, and Mrs. Sam Kratz.

Compiled by Ariel D. Jones

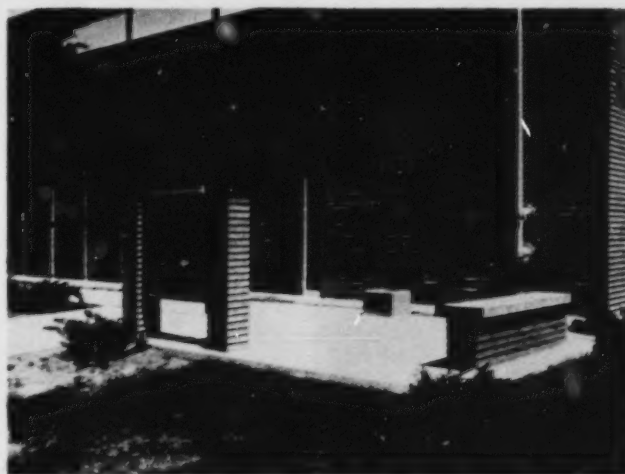
Durango Public Library

Action to establish a public library in Durango began in 1889, but it was not until February 7, 1905 that the City Council passed Ordinance No. 410, formally establishing the legal basis for a public library.

In January 1906 Andrew Carnegie offered to give \$12,500 for a building if the city would give not less than \$1,200 yearly for its maintenance and if a suitable site were provided. Since General William J. Palmer of Colorado Springs owned considerable real estate in Durango, he was approached to donate some land. General Palmer donated Lots 14, 15 and 16 in Block 82 for

a building site. During 1907 Lot 17 was purchased to enable the library to expand in future years.

On March 9, 1907 the cornerstone was laid under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge.



On November 1, 1907 Mrs. Hattie E. Fay was appointed the first librarian and she held that post until her death in February 1916. Among the more memorable names who served are Sadie K. Sullivan, Marion Lundell, and Lyle Warrick. The current librarian is Charles L. Youngman, Jr. who at this writing has served five years.

In 1967 an extension was added to the Carnegie structure with funding from the Colorado State Library. This addition doubled the size of the library.

Since the formation of system services within Colorado, the Durango library has served as the Resource Center for the Southwest Library System.

The board of trustees members are George A. King, Lillian McKelvey, Mrs. Arthur Ballantine, Jessie Hott, and Dr. Robert W. Delaney.

Compiled by Charles L. Youngman

Eads Kiowa County Public Library

The Kiowa County Public Library, located in Eads, was organized in 1935 when there were only five such libraries in the State of Colorado, located in the most populous counties. It was organized by local women who saw the need for a library.

Mrs. Marion Wimp and Mrs. Ethyl Johnson, both former school teachers, and Mrs. Lilly Herzog were leaders in collecting books, many of which were donated.

In January of 1939 the library was officially organized under the sponsorship and supervision of the County Commissioners who were Pete Myers, A.F. Wenger, and H.H. Hooker.

There were 1200 books in the original library. The board was made up of five women; Mrs. Wimp, who became librarian in April of that year, Mrs. Kathryn Ebright, Mrs. Emma Rose, Mrs. Joe Jingrass, and Mrs. Johnson.

Today the library has 13,900 books shelved in a large well-lighted room in the modern courthouse, with ample seating space for those who wish to do research.

Mrs. Wimp completed her 37th year as County Librarian on April 1st, 1976. Lucille Shalberg, Lois Anderson, Debbie Howe, and Ruth Wissel form the board of trustees at the present time.

Information courtesy of
Kiowa County Public Library

Eagle County Public Library

The Eagle County Public library began, as a gleam in someone's eye, in 1966 when Alice Hazzard, Virgene Anderson and Mary Daugherty went to the Eagle County Commissioners to get help to establish a county library. From 1966 to 1972 this small group grew to include Beryl Forrester, Anna Robidoux, Elsie Pallister, and Bert Immenschuh. Each year they went back to the Commissioners to plead the case for a county library in Eagle. By 1973 more folks had joined the movement while others had moved away. That year Alice Koonce, Jean Johnson, Virgene Anderson, Jean Simpson, Mary Daugherty, and Myrtie Stephens met to work out guide lines and policies, and, finally in December 1973 the Eagle County Public Library was established, at least on paper.

With a little prodding, the Commissioners gave the citizens of Eagle County the lunch room that was part of an old school complex, recently purchased by the county. The library board of trustees, Mary Daugherty, Alice Koonce, Bert Immenschuh, Karen Morter, and Myrtie Stephens, got paint and paint brushes and some volunteers, cinder blocks and boards and set to work. In the fall of 1974, they moved the old town collection to the new building — an improvement over the old cramped quarters above a local bar.

Through the Commissioners, they got a yearly budget which included the salary for a professional librarian. In January 1975, Dr. Alan Clarke became the Eagle County Librarian. He brought with him, along with more graduate degrees (MA and PhD in English, MA in Librarianship) than one human being should suffer from, a love of books and an eagerness to work.

Since January 1975 the Eagle County System has grown to include branches at Gypsum, Sweetwater, Burns and McCoy, Redcliff, and (soon) Minturn. The circulation has grown from 3,000 in 1974 to 21,000 in 1975.

It took ten years, from 1966 to 1975, to set up this library and this system, a dedication rarely found today. And if some had to leave before its completion, there were always more people willing to dedicate their efforts to bring more adequate library service to Eagle County. With such a background, no librarian can fail.

Mrs. Malaprop, the famous character of the ill-used words, once said, "A circulating library in a town is as an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge." While we do not utterly dismiss the possibility of demonic possession, we hope rather to be like the evergreen and continue to grow.

History courtesy of
Eagle County Public Library

Eaton Public Library

The Eaton Public Library is an outgrowth of a reading room maintained by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in the sprawling settlement of 1886 which later

became the town of Eaton. In 1900 a Village Improvement Society was organized with the express purpose of establishing a public library. President of the society was Mr. S.J. Eaton.

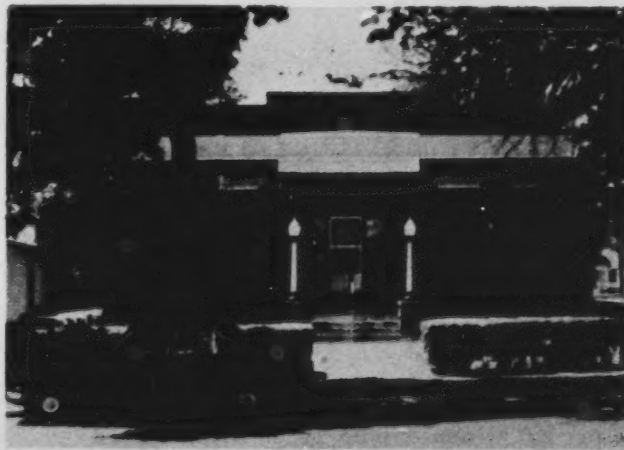
Through popular subscription, a contribution of \$100 from the town and free use of the WCTU Reading Room, the Eaton Public Library was able to open its doors July 27, 1901. The income for the first year was \$313.14 of which \$88.08 was spent for books, one-third of which were for children.

In 1902 the WCTU sold its building, and the library was without a home. The book collection was stored, and the second phase of library development in Eaton got under way. Mrs. W.H. Eaton called a meeting of citizens in the area to discuss the question, and a campaign was launched to raise money to buy lots and erect a building which would be a permanent home for the library.

The area was canvassed, and contributions ranging from five cents to \$50 were collected. The lots where the present library stands were purchased for \$550, and a small building was erected. Dr. S.C. Dickinson, pastor of the Congregational Church, drew the plans which provided for a central section which was designed so that additions could be added when needed. When the building was completed in 1904 Dr. Dickinson cataloged and arranged the 1,000 books on the shelves and the new library was proudly opened to the public.

The town allowed \$8 per month for current expenses, but most of the budget came from an organization known as the Patronesses of which Mrs. Flora Eaton was president. Members made systematic contributions of books and used practically every known method to raise money. They served dinners, conducted food sales, and gave concerts, home talent plays and minstrel shows. Some original and unique projects were carried out successfully including a Chautauqua program, a circus with human performing animals and a barn dance. The library was the community center, and all things which contributed to its support were generously patronized by the community. The Patronesses gave enthusiastically of their time and talents to the various projects, and the people of Eaton were united in their devotion to the up-building of the library.

By 1910 the library had outgrown the small building, and an addition was needed. Hearing of this situation, Mrs. Rebecca Eaton offered to erect a new library which she would give to the town as a memorial to her husband, Benjamin Harrison Eaton for whom the town was named.



The library board accepted Mrs. Eaton's offer, and on December 5, 1911 the present beautiful and substantial building was formally given to the town, accepted by Mayor T.C. Phillips and dedicated to the service of the community.

The history of the Eaton Public Library would not be complete without the story of its librarian, Miss Edith Coffman. In 1907 while the first permanent building was being used, Miss Coffman was appointed librarian. For 52 consecutive years she served in this capacity, a record probably unsurpassed in the State of Colorado. Her record is unique not only in point of time, but also for its quality of efficiency and devotion.

The Eaton Public Library serves a community of 1,750 at the present time. During the year 1976 the Eaton Jaycees remodeled the basement which serves as reading room, and occasionally also as a meeting room. During the winter the University of Northern Colorado Children's Theatre Group conducted children's story hours, and this was very successful.

New additions to the collection are large print materials and films.

The library is a member of the High Plains System, and is working on a collection of historical tapes of the community.

Mrs. Richard Smith, who submitted the most recent history, serves as librarian. The trustees are Mrs. Chester Larson, Mrs. Jo House, Mrs. George Steele, Mrs. Don Baab, and Mrs. H.P. Christensen.

Englewood Public Library

An Englewood Public Library Association of twenty "contributors" on May 14, 1920 formed the beginning of the Englewood Public Library and housed the original collection of 200 books in the home of J.C. Jones, the City's first mayor. In 1924 the library was moved to a building owned by Dr. John Simon, Sr. where the first "librarian and custodian" assumed her duties — receiving a rent-free apartment in the library and \$15.00 per month.

The Library Board of Control, in 1926, asked the City Council to appoint a board of seven members and agreed to "turn over furniture, fixtures, money, and all possessions to the new board." In 1934 the library moved to the City Hall and since that year has been housed in three locations which have been the Englewood City Halls during that time. The second move occurred in 1950. By 1956, with the library budget approved by City Council and all financial operations handled through the City Treasurer, the library became a fully integrated department of city government.

Mrs. Lillian Bullen, who served from 1925 until 1959 as secretary to the Board, assistant librarian, and librarian, saw the library grow from its 200 volumes to 30,000 and the budget increase from less than \$150 per month to more than \$23,000 annually.

December 4, 1965 marked dedication services for the new Englewood Public Library as part of the City complex adjoining the site of the Cinderella City Shopping Center, a strategic spot for service to citizens of Englewood and neighboring communities.

In its current location, with more space available, the years 1965-1975 have shown rapid growth with the book collection increased from 48,000 to more than 90,000.

Service to patrons has become the hallmark of Englewood Public Library as it responds to their ever-increasing needs and interests under the current librarianship of Miss Harriet Lute, who has directed library programs in Englewood since 1969.



Augmented demand for audio-visual materials has been met; free programs of interest to adults and teenagers have been added to those planned for children.

Beyond the library walls, the new Roadrunner bookmobile since 1968 has wheeled library service to Englewood and Arapahoe County residents. Services were instituted to nursing homes, to the homebound, and to senior citizens. The City and the School District cooperated in opening Instructional Media Centers in several elementary schools for family use in the evenings.

Emphasis on a collection of local history to "Share Englewood's Heritage" has included taping the reminiscences of 40 older citizens and development of an orderly procedure for collecting, organizing and sharing the community history. A resource file has also been organized on current information about the City and its government. In anticipation of Colorado's Centennial, the library produced a slide-tape show on "Seventy Years of Englewood" and a pictorial book titled, "Englewood: A Past to Remember."

Citizen advisory support has lent strength to the public service through the years. A statement of purpose and detailed book selection policy, written by the Library Board of Trustees, and approved by the City Council, gave direction to the library's growth. A newly formed "Friends" group, in 1975-76 has launched an ambitious cultural program for community participation.

Cooperation with other agencies for improvement of library services has historical significance. Since 1961 Englewood and other municipal libraries in Arapahoe County have provided service to residents of the unincorporated areas, with reimbursement from county tax funds and later from the Arapahoe Regional Library District. Englewood librarians were leaders in the development of JADA (a cooperative program among librarians in Jefferson, Adams, Denver, and Arapahoe Counties) and in the Inter-County Librarians Committee which planned the Central Colorado Public Library System.

Standing at the entrance of the Englewood Public Library is a contemporary sculpture of "Prometheus

Unbound" by artist Anthony J. Bernardi. It speaks symbolically to those who enter of the historical library role which strives to "present the marvels of arts, science, and political justice . . . yet insisting that the secret to avert conceivable dangers ahead is in 'gentleness, virtue, wisdom, and endurance'."

History by Beverly P. Simon

The nine Trustees are Miss Lois E. Lighthall, Mrs. Beverly Simon, Emmett Kuhlman, John C. Maxwell, Alfred Quaintance, Harlan Shattuck, Mrs. Lois Sterling, Mr. Earl DeuPree, and Mr. David Clayton.



*Estes Park Public Library,
originally erected as one-room building in 1922.*

Estes Park Public Library

The Estes Park Library, founded by the Woman's Club, is one of the region's greatest assets. The library has an interesting history and is proof of what a group of civic-minded women can accomplish.

In October 1916 the Estes Park Woman's Club decided that the community must have a public library. A library committee was formed, and the program was launched.

The committee offered to staff the school library if the school board would donate a room in the school building for public library use two afternoons a week. The school board was eager to cooperate, and the Woman's Club Library opened December 1916, with a total of 262 books. Florence Bond, the first librarian, received a salary of \$1.50 per week.

For several years the library was maintained in the school, but in the fall of 1920 the committee was forced to find another building because the school needed the room. During that year the library moved three times, a situation which made it imperative to find a permanent location. With the cooperation of the citizens of Estes Park this goal was accomplished in 1922. The Town gave a lot in the park, and the Woman's Club and townspeople built the present front room of the library. By September 1922 the new library was completed and furnished at a cost of \$5,000. There were 1,478 books in the collection, and the name of the agency was changed to the Estes Park Public Library.

In 1925 the Woman's Club developed a budget plan whereby the library would have definite funds. This plan is still in operation and is supported loyally by local and summer residents who make substantial contributions to the program. In later years an appropriation of \$1,000 per year, upkeep of grounds and lights were furnished by the

town. The annual budget of the library in 1959 was \$3,500.

An addition to the original one-room building was provided when a civic-minded resident of Estes Park, Mrs. Pieter Hondius, decided to leave a memorial to her husband. As a result of her generosity, a spacious and attractive reading room and handsome furnishings were dedicated in memory of Pieter Hondius in 1935. In addition to the reading room, a connecting hallway and furnace room were also added with the Woman's Club sharing the cost.

When it became apparent in 1968 that a further updating of the library facilities was urgently needed, which would involve the construction of a sizable addition to the east, certain remodeling and adequate modern furnishings, the necessary funds came from the following sources: the sale to the Town of the National Park Headquarters buildings and land by the Woman's Club (these buildings and land had reverted to the club, by agreement, when the National Park Service moved to their new building), a grant of Federal Construction Funds — Title II, LSCA for libraries — made possible by the Town Board's action in legalization of the library and a sizable bequest in the will of Mrs. Eleanor E. Hondius, and a matching donation by Pieter Hondius, Jr., again in memory of Pieter Hondius, Sr.

Many library services have been added including membership in the Columbia Record Service audio program; subscription to the McNaughton plan; a working agreement with the Park District R 3 for the loan of over 1000 books for summer use in the library; purchase of several Hitachi recorders and tapes. The library sponsors Great Books, chess tournaments, book reviews during the summer months and a Bicentennial program known as the American Issues Forum. A large trophy case, given to the Library in memory of Mrs. Pieter Hondius, displays varied and interesting collections throughout the year.

The founding and steady progress of the Estes Park Public Library are a tribute to the great work of the Estes Park Woman's Club over the years. In addition to the wonderful efforts of this organization, however, much credit should be given to the Town Board and to the scores of un-named citizens who have assisted the library consistently with contributions, both large and small.

It is hoped that school children, college students, and townspeople, will continue to use and enjoy the new and expanded facilities. Visitors to our area will gain a cultural insight into the early life and customs of Estes Park, and be able to see and relive our past history with us.

"The Estes Park Library Board has always been a 'working' board" as the *Estes Park Trail* reported in February 1972. The present Board members are Joyce Sager, Chairman, Harriett Burgess, Vice-Chairman, Joyce Grove, Emma Carlson, and Ruth Montgomery.

History courtesy of
Estes Park Public Library

Flagler Community Library

After World War I, Red Cross work ended in Flagler, and the town had on its hands a small building which had been built by Lee Worley for a Red Cross workroom. Mr. Worley had donated his work, and citizens furnished funds for materials to erect the building.

In 1922 the women of Flagler organized the Flagler Woman's Civic Club which took as one of its projects the establishment of a public library. Members obtained permission from the city to use the former Red Cross building and started a library in memory of Flagler men who had lost their lives in World War I. By February, 1923 the Club had the building nicely equipped and 100 books on the shelves. Otto Shaw helped the library committee with a system of cataloguing which is still in use, and Miss Elaine Briggs was appointed librarian in which capacity she served until June, 1938.

In 1928 the Civic Club was disbanded, and a library committee continued the program with assistance from the town.

When the new city building was erected in 1935 one room on the first floor was reserved for the library. The new quarters were occupied in July of that year, and the Flagler Woman's Club agreed to sponsor the library. Under this enthusiastic sponsorship it grew and thrived until 1948 when it was turned over to the town. The entire main floor of the city building was given to the library in 1957 providing a reading room for children and also one for adults.

The library continued in the City Building until 1969 when the building was sold and a larger building was purchased for use as a Municipal Building. Spacious quarters on the first floor were remodeled for the use of the Library with storage space available along with the use of the council room for extra space. The library also served as a meeting room for organizations and provided ample space for Story Hours and film screenings.

Beginning in the 1950's when Kit Carson County joined with other northeastern counties in organizing book-mobile service, the library was able to provide more services to readers. This has continued with the organization of the High Plains Regional Library and the use of other state programs.

The Flagler Woman's Club re-entered the picture in the middle 1950's by organizing a Summer Reading Program for the younger readers which the members managed themselves. This program continued until the late 1960s.

The Wm. A. Borland Memorial Book Shelf is very popular. It contains all of the books written by nature writer Hal Borland, who gave the collection in memory of his father, the *Flagler News* publisher from 1915 to 1931. Hal's "Country Editor's Boy" depicts his high school years in Flagler from 1915 to 1918. The Library hosted its most widely attended function in April 1970 when Hal and Barbara Borland of Salisbury, Conn. visited Flagler briefly and consented to a "coffee" where they could meet friends. Several hundred old friends and fans descended on the library for the occasion.

At the present time Mrs. Betty Yocum serves as librarian. Ruth Coulter, who submitted the most recent history, is the Chairman of the Trustees. Other Board members are Pearl Shaw, Agnes Loutzenhiser, Esther Malbaff, and Pat Balman.

Fleming Community Library

In May 1922 a meeting of the three women's clubs of Fleming, the Fleming Woman's Club, the Priscilla Club, and the Black Hawk Valley Reviewers Club, was called to discuss the possibility of organizing a public library. It was decided that each club should share equally the

expenses of the library, and an assessment of ten cents per month per member was agreed upon.

A basement room in the Fleming Community Church was secured for the library. The first librarian, Mrs. John Wadell, kept the library open Saturday afternoons and evenings.

The library's first constitution and bylaws were drafted on August 1922. A Library Board was appointed, and trustee meetings were scheduled on a monthly basis. Later, as the library began to operate more smoothly, the meetings were held quarterly.

In October 1923 the library was moved to a room in the Rialto Building on Main Street. In April 1925 it was moved to a small building, one block farther south. In September 1936 a brick building on the corner of Main Street was purchased by the Library Board. The money used for this purpose had been accumulated from suppers, bazaars, bake sales, benefit plays, and from other money making projects together with some donations. When the library moved into the new building, the Town of Fleming agreed to furnish lights and help with expenses when major repairs were needed.

Between 1934 and 1950 the Thursday Study Club and the 20th Century Club joined the three sponsoring organizations which had initiated the library program. Later in 1976 the Matinee Study Club and the 20-20 Club joined also.

In 1955 the Town and the Library Association agreed on the town using part of the building as a Town Hall. For rent the Town paid lights, water, fuel, and the salary of the town clerk, who also served as librarian. This made it possible to increase the library hours to 32 hours a week.

The Fleming Community Library has grown and prospered through the years because of the spirit of cooperation in the community.

The library is part of the High Plains Library System.

Presently Mrs. Alberta Acott serves as Librarian, and the Board members are Gertrude Atkinson, Mrs. Raymond Rudel, Mrs. Earle Nelson, Mrs. Albert Kinzie Sr., Mrs. T.H. Yount, Mrs. M. Bell, and Mrs. Leo Meckelburg.

Information by Mrs. Raymond Rudel



*Florence Public Library;
one of the few standing Carnegie Libraries in Colorado*

Florence Public Library

The Florence Public Library was established in 1897 and has operated continuously since that early date when

Colorado was still an infant State.

From 1897 till 1917, when the Carnegie fund was received, the library was financed by gifts from citizens and organizations, and small warrants from the city. Early records show that the United Oil Company, A.R. Cumaer, and the Elks Club made substantial contributions to the library budget.

In February 1917 the Carnegie Corporation provided a grant of \$10,000 for a new library building and the City of Florence agreed to operate the program. Plans for the new structure were drawn and approved, the present site was purchased, and on March 14, 1918 bids were advertised. The new library was dedicated on March 7, 1919.

On March 13, 1919 the library was opened to the public. The main room was sectioned off so that the adult books were on the west side of the library and the children's books on the east side.

On November 3, 1919 the library received its first shipment of new books, about 13 in all. At the same time the first library fund was established, and it came to a total of \$13.00.

On December 8, 1919 the Florence Women's Club organized a reading program for children, known as Children's Book Week. Special certificates were awarded to those children who read more books than anyone else in their class.

In 1934 funds had to be raised to rebuild the front stairs; also new roofing and a new ceiling were required.

It is probably just to say that between 1897 and 1960 the library survived mainly because of funds from the Women's Club, the Elks, the Lion's Club, the United Oil Company, and also from private citizens. In the early 1960's the library finally applied for state funds. This, along with city funds and allowances from the county, helped to keep the library going.

In the early 1960's, Vivian Jansen, Librarian, started the first cataloging of books. The first summer children's reading program was established in 1963, and it met with much success.

In 1965 the first Friends of the Library was organized.

In 1968 a state-funded pilot project was started. This project, tabbed "Historama," was the taping of the views of early day pioneers, of their childhood in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This has proved to be a very popular project and many private citizens are still taping incidents of the early life of these pioneers.

In 1972 two very ambitious library patrons, Gayle Garner and Carol Fox took it upon themselves to gather the old newspapers dating from the late 1890's to 1940, to sort them out, and to make several trips to Denver where through the efforts of AVPLS Librarian, Maria Mata, funds were received to microfilm these newspapers.

Florence Public Library is a member of the Arkansas Valley Public Library System which is headed by Maria Mata. This association has proved to be very valuable to the library, especially the interlibrary loan, McNaughton books, and workshops.

In 1968 new lighting was added and the upper floor renewed.

1975 was a big year for Florence Public Library. The basement was remodeled with the meeting room made into a children's library with carpeting (which was purchased with funds from many contributors), paneling, new wooden shelves, and paint. The bathrooms were modernized. An assistant librarian was hired, Mrs. Aileen Andreatta.

Perhaps the most important event during 1975 was the state grant of over \$17,000 shared by the Canon City and Florence Libraries. It was used to purchase a county bookmobile which is now bringing books to many small towns in the area, such as Penrose, Coal Creek, Williamsburg, Rockvale, Portland, and Cotopaxi, and also to several county nursing homes and to the Veterans' Home.

The Library now has a new 16mm projector and a screen for public use, and patrons may also use a new typewriter at the library.

In January 1976 another state grant of over \$14,000, provided microfilm readers for both the Florence and the Canon City Libraries.

Over the years the Florence Public Library had the following librarians: 1904-1907, Frances Collar; 1907-1912, W. Hughes; 1912-1942, Jesse Ludwig; 1942-1960, Alice Spencer; 1960-1965, Vivian Jansen; 1965 to present, Bernice Morelli, and 1975 to present, Aileen Andreatta. Presently the Trustees are Dominic Carochi, Chairman, Harry Kengle, Ann Kimpton, Merle Strickland, Shirley Weise, and L.L. Lancaster.

History courtesy of
Florence Public Library



*Architect's drawing of the new
Fort Collins Public Library in Lincoln Park.*

Fort Collins Public Library

After 71 years in the same location, Fort Collins Public Library in October 1976 will move to its new 1.8 million dollar building in back of the present library, on the east side of Lincoln Park. Pioneer Museum, now in the new building's "front yard", will be razed and its contents moved to the present library.

In 1899 the "Fort Collins Public Library and Reading Room Association" was formed and in 1900 a library approved and funded by city council was begun in two rooms rented for \$10 per month on the second story of the Welch Block. Here approximately 3000 Fort Collins residents had access to books, three subscription magazines, with a librarian hired at \$10 per month. This was the sixth library to be organized in Colorado.

Six months later the library was obliged to move, and several locations were rented before an Andrew Carnegie grant enabled the city in 1904 to erect the west section of the red sandstone building in Lincoln Park. The library had 2,770 books; 19,824 book loans were made that year

and patrons numbered 965. In 1937 the building was enlarged to twice its original size.

In 1934 the children's room was established; in 1937 the county library was officially opened in the Fort Collins library building and the bookmobile began service to points outside the city. A merger of the county and city libraries in 1967 has resulted in the bookmobile being supported cooperatively by the city and county.

The library became a member of High Plains Library System in 1970. Membership in the nine-county federation of libraries entitles participants to inter-library loans, cooperative film service, audio-visual equipment, participation in workshops for improvement of library techniques, and lobbying efforts on behalf of libraries.

In a recent survey, Fort Collins is in the center of the fourth fastest growing metropolitan area in the U.S., with 143,900 as the projected population of the area and 79,200 within the city limits in 1980. With 63,700 people now in the city limits, Fort Collins Library reflects the area's growth in 1975, with 22.5% increase in circulation over the previous year, bringing total circulation to 397,045. Of this total, 353,545 represents library circulation and 43,500 bookmobile circulation. Almost half of the city's population possesses and uses library cards.

At the end of 1975, the library's collection numbered 70,781 volumes, 265 art prints, 3,000 record albums, 200 cassettes and 30 transcriptions of oral interviews. The book budget for 1975 was \$120,000, derived from revenue-sharing funds. Staff members numbered 18 full time, 10 part time, 3 work-study, and 40 volunteers. A lay group, Friends of the Library, is organized to promote the library's program.

In addition to the director and his assistant, the staff consists of five divisions: business, cataloguing, adult services, children's section, and bookmobile.

The library director reports to a five-member Library Board on administrative matters and to the city on financial matters. Larimer County contributes about \$50,000 annually to the library, with \$23,000 of this amount financing the bookmobile serving mainly outlying areas of the county.

Among the services offered are the weekly American Issues Forum, a gardening series, Great Books Program, the weekly children's story hour, and sponsorship of a local history program consisting of recording and transcribing reminiscences of Larimer County pioneers.

History courtesy of
Fort Collins Public Library

The five members of the Board of Trustees are Sarah Bennett, Chairman, Wilson Wilmarth, Vice-Chairman, Frank Johnson, Jr., Robert Burns, and Anne Manvel.

Fort Lupton Public Library

The Fort Lupton Public Library was begun by the Thursday Afternoon Club, a women's service club. On May 31, 1921 "plans were completed for the establishment of a library and rest room for Fort Lupton." A book social was held at the Methodist Church on June 15, 1921, to gain public support of the move. A book and 10¢ was the admission fee, and membership cards and popcorn were sold. By July 28, 1921 a Library Association Constitution and Bylaws were adopted, and \$140 was in the treasury. In September Mrs. Bartholamue was retained as a part time librarian and the library was set up in the waiting room of dentist Dr. Wallace A. Lee, on the second

floor of the old bank building. Some 102 books had been collected by the book social, and the Colorado Traveling Library Association furnished 30 books to start.

In April 1922 the school offered a room, but apparently the planned move was never made. However, by July 1922 the library had been moved to Town Hall. Entertainments held by Thursday Afternoon and Current Events Clubs were adding small sums to the treasury. On February 8, 1923, all property of the Library Association was turned over to the Town of Fort Lupton. Tax money was now added for support of the library. In March 1923 Miss Norma Hardenburg was hired as librarian, a position she held until 1947.

Thursday Afternoon, Current Events Clubs, Chapter AZ, PEO, the American Legion, and many other community organizations contributed money to the building fund, until in January 1929 the fund had grown to the point where an architect's library plans were being discussed.

In June 1929 the library, town and school boards had agreed upon building a library to provide temporary classroom space. The school approved architect Huddart's plans, and in July 1929 the town board gave the library board \$1,000 to buy 2½ lots on which to build the library.

The November 13, 1929, Library Board meeting was held in the library. Cost of the library was \$13,314. The library was leased to the school at \$1,300 a year in 1929 and 1930. In 1931 "the books were moved upstairs," so presumably the move from Town Hall had been to the library basement. Later the basement was occupied by the Red Cross Relief Committee, and it was used variously at other times by a band, dancing class, churches and Sunday Schools.

In April 1936 the librarian had a small supply of Weld County Library books to be checked out by persons and schools in Southern Weld County. In May 1936 \$10 was paid to the Weld County Library for use of 100 books for one year.

In the 1950's the library board began to take note of state laws on libraries, and in 1961 the Fort Lupton Library joined the State Library Association. In November 1961 the Fort Lupton Library became a part of the Weld County System. Fort Lupton Public Library has been a part of the High Plains System since its inception in 1966.

In the spring of 1975, during the campaign for a bond issue election for a new high school in Fort Lupton, the school board offered to include space in the new school for a joint school-public library. School and library officials visited the joint school-public library in Sheridan and discussed the possibility of a merger. While the library board by a narrow margin opposed the joint library proposal, in August 1975 the Fort Lupton City Council voted to merge the public library with the new school library, with a contract to be drawn up by a citizens' library committee. The contract has been approved by both school board and city council; new school committee members appointed to work with the existing council-appointed library board, and a qualified librarian were being sought. The library in the new Fort Lupton High School opened on September 1, 1976.

History by Mrs. McCrumb
• Presently Rowena J. Mixon serves as librarian, and the trustees are Andrew Sharpe, chairman, Mrs. Annetta Vincent, Mrs. LaVeda Sears, William E. Lopez, and Mrs. Carol Becker.

Fort Morgan Carnegie Public Library

The Fort Morgan Public Library had its beginning in a Ladies' Library Association. Early in 1890 a group of 16 women met, spent \$15 for books, and laid plans to obtain more funds. This group gave a play, "The Little Tycoon" and realized \$100.

A bookcase and a hundred books were purchased, and space in an office was donated. The members of the Ladies' Library Association took turns in going to the office on Saturday afternoons to act as librarians.

The association held bazaars, gave operas, minstrel shows, Shakespearean recitals, potluck suppers, Chinese teas, St. Patrick's Day stews, and ice cream socials to raise money to build up the book collection. One dollar per year was charged for a library card.

In 1904 an attempt was made to secure a Carnegie library building. This did not succeed and in 1906 the ladies reluctantly gave their history and reference books to the high school. About 500 additional books were turned over to the town to be entrusted to the mayor and a board of trustees created under the state library law. The books were moved to the city hall. A levy of one mill was made to support the new city library. The library quickly grew to about 1,800 volumes and was kept open every afternoon and evening.

The Carnegie building was finally secured in 1916, through the efforts of the city council and various city organizations. County Superintendent of Schools Anna R. White headed the drive. A site in the city park was donated by the city council, which also voted an annual maintenance provision. The gift from the Carnegie Corporation was \$10,000. Citizens of the town were generous in making donations of books, statuary, paintings, and other furnishings.

The Carnegie Library served the community in its original state for many years. The November 1, 1961, *Fort Morgan Times* reported that the children's library was moved to the newly remodeled basement which had formerly been storage space. Much of the physical work of moving, as well as decorating, had been accomplished by members of the Arcturus Club. The vacated space in the main library was filled by expanded reference and young adults sections.

In September 1967 a thorough survey was made of the existing facility and services by personnel from the Colorado State Library under the supervision of Gordon Bennett. The October 6th newspaper quoted Bennett as saying, "You need some sort of new building desperately, whether it be a new building or an addition." Circulation had increased 450 percent since 1948. The library space needed to be at least doubled.

The Heritage Foundation was organized to instigate the future construction of a library-museum complex. Many plans were discussed; the original building could be torn down and replaced or an additional building could be added at the other end of the park. The plan which was finally adopted left the old building standing inside the walls of the new. The library was to occupy the new "wing" and the museum could be housed in the original portion of the structure.

In order to fund this extensive project, the Heritage Foundation agreed to raise \$100,000. In May of 1972 the newspaper noted that \$28,902 had been received. Giving to the library-museum had become so popular that a special committee was formed to acknowledge and in-

form recipients or their families of the gifts and memorials. Three months later, the building fund was \$81,000 and a telephone campaign completed the \$100,000 raised by donations in this prairie town of approximately 7,500 residents. A bond issue was then presented and passed and added the \$300,000 of public funds needed to build the new structure.



Fort Morgan Public Library-Museum.

Designed with a classic simplicity that reflects the refined tastes of the people in this community, the new library was proudly opened in October of 1974, and its grand opening was in the following March. Though the city provides its sole support, all of the library services are offered free to the patrons which include residents from all parts of Morgan county. Non-city resident users comprise 44 percent of the individual registrations. Traveling collections are kept in rural grade schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions throughout the county.

Circulation statistics for 1975 show that 69,646 books were loaned, of which 63,686 were from the local collection. Total circulation was 72,177. The difference in the figures would be mainly magazines. The audio-visual collection is just now being developed. Plans for the future include expansion of the business and agricultural collections as well as increasing the effectiveness of the reference department. That this library is constantly expanding was evidenced by the circulation statistics for March of 1976 which exceeded those of March, 1975 — the Grand Opening of the new Fort Morgan Library.

The most outstanding book collection in the library is the Colorado collection started by Lute Johnson, one-time member of the Denver Post staff. It includes books of authors who once lived in Colorado, and many of the copies are autographed.

At the present time the Trustees are Mr. Robert Hutcheson, Chairman, Mrs. Barbara Keenan, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Herschel McKay, Mrs. LaVerne Macy, Mr. Kenneth Montel, Mrs. Meta M. Tibbetts.

Compiled by Connie Hudelson

Fowler Public Library

As early as 1891 a small subscription library was operating in an office building in Fowler. It was supported by membership fees of one dollar and dues paid quarterly. Donations of cash and books were made by

interested individuals. Mr. T.T. Woodruff of LaJunta donated \$50 and a box of books.

The Woman's Club, organized in 1903, supported the library for many years. Plays and programs were given to raise funds for additional books. There was no paid librarian and the club members worked devotedly to keep the library open and operating.

In 1911 the library became a free public library, when the town of Fowler voted to support it with tax money. It appears that the levy was one-half mill, but that the library was dependent upon the city council for the allocation of this money. In 1922 the appropriation was only \$150 and the Board of Trustees petitioned the city council for an extra \$50 to bring the amount to the customary \$200.

For a time the library was quartered in the high school building where the teachers aided in checking out books, and the school district bore about half of the expenses. In 1926 the library was moved to the City Hall where it was housed in a small separate room adjoining the city clerk's office. Mrs. Julia Stanley was elected librarian at a salary of \$15 per month.

During the Depression, 1931 and the following years, money for new library books was at a minimum. In 1940 the trustees did grant the library some additional shelving and money to finance a monk's cloth curtain for the library.

In 1948 Mrs. Julia Stanley's salary was raised to \$25 per month after serving as librarian for more than twenty years. No funds were available for the purchase of new books because of city expense in repairing the water pipeline to the river.

In the summer of 1954 Miss Christine Stjernholm, a trained librarian, was employed at \$1.00 per hour to re-catalogue the books with the help of some Rainbow girls. All books were called in and the library was closed until this task was accomplished.

In 1958 a "Bookmobile" program was instituted for 18 months and a contribution of \$25 from the library fund was made for traveling expenses of the bookmobile. This service was made available in an eight county area — Otero, Las Animas, Prowers, Bent, Kiowa, Baca, Cheyenne, and Crowley. A year later this service was discontinued because the County Commissioners of Otero withdrew their support.

Mayor A.A. Keeling proved to be a great help to the Fowler Public Library. His board of trustees presented the great need for more space for the library. Mayor Keeling took the matter up with his council and his city workmen, and moved the library into the large space.

The greatest boon to Fowler's library was the creation of the Arkansas Valley Library System with headquarters in Pueblo with its loan service, and the building-up of our local collection through moneys made available from state appropriations spent through the system's librarian and through mill levy funds made available to the library.

Mrs. Mildred Hache has served as a Librarian since 1959. The board of trustees has given great service over the years to the community. The present Trustees are Chas. W. Ayers, Chairman, Ruth McClure, Olive Buck, Juanita Deeds, Maxine Fox, Else Hazlett, and Evelyn Marvin.

Information by Miss Ruth McClure

Frisco Summit County Library

The Summit County Library began as a volunteer organization. A group of citizens felt that there was a dire need for a library, as there had been a large influx of population due to the construction of the Dillon Dam.

On April 14, 1958 a library committee was appointed by the Summit County School District RE-1. At the same time the Federal Government was making funds available to State Libraries to aid them in giving better service to rural communities. The Library Committee contacted the Colorado State Library for information and assistance in getting a library organized. The library committee worked out an agreement with the State Library to set up deposits in each community in Summit County and to borrow 500 books from the State Library free of charge. This program was so successful that the loan was increased to 900 books. The town boards of Frisco, Breckenridge, and Dillon agreed to finance the deposits in their towns.

It was difficult to find locations for the three deposits in the towns where the books could be available to the public and yet be safe. They were located in such places as homes, town halls, and businesses. One such location was in the Frisco Lodge — then called the Frisco Hotel. Tenants there were in dire financial circumstances and found it necessary to move out in the middle of the night, and it is believed that they used two of the State Library book trunks to pack articles that did not belong to them, but that they desired to take with them. As a result it cost the library board, which had been recently appointed by the Summit County Commissioners, \$60 to replace the trunks so that they could get the loaned books back to the State Library. Since the board only had a budget of \$300 per year, this expense was very difficult to assume.

The library received a \$300 budget from the county and began purchasing as many books as was possible. Since there was need for more money, fund-raising projects, such as the Library Fair and turkey dinners, were organized by an active and enthusiastic group of volunteers. Out of this group grew the Friends of the Library, founded on October 3, 1960, and headed by Mrs. Walter Bayley.

Many books were donated to the County Library. The library board met once a week to catalogue and distribute books to the three deposits. The books were exchanged often so that they would be available to everyone in the county.

In 1966 the summer reading program was initiated and has continued as a successful addition to the children's summer recreation.

The library board of trustees spent endless hours in making arrangements for the events leading up to the building of the library. A public meeting was held on September 27, 1966 for the purpose of explaining the Library Building Committee's proposal of a 3½ public works mill levy, for one year. On November 5, 1968 this levy was approved by the voters of Summit County and the first step of the gigantic job was under way.

The Friends of the Library raised the money to pay the architect, Claude Nash. Construction of the library building was completed in December of 1969. It is a traditional right/left design of 1,562 square feet with a circulation desk in the middle for control.

Though the building is fairly new, it is already too small to accommodate the needs for the rapidly growing Summit County. In the last two years, the circulation has

increased from 15,640 to 21,678. The library has increased its collection to approximately 8000 volumes, expanded its popular McNaughton collection of bestsellers to 40 new books a month, added audio-visual equipment, a vertical file, and a puzzle collection. The lack of space in which to hold programs such as the American Issues Forum has prevented the Library from presenting many programs which it should be offering to the community today.

Information courtesy of
Summit County Library

Georgetown John Tomay Memorial Library

While Georgetown was a booming mining town in the 1800's its citizens assembled an informal library of well-worn literary classics, Bibles, treatises, histories, and romantic novels. But it wasn't until 1900 that Mrs. Henry Seifred, wife of the president of the Bank of Georgetown, organized the Georgetown Library Association, thus launching the little library into new and dynamic directions.

According to a clipping from the *Georgetown Courier*, Mrs. Seifred met with the town board of selectmen and the mayor, urging them to assist in the project. In a letter to the association the town board promised to "furnish and procure a site for a library building within the corporate limits of the town and to give other moral and substantial support . . . provided the Georgetown Library Association can provide the necessary funds for the erection of a suitable building."

The Association did not "erect a building," but they did find an old building, formerly a tailor shop on Taos Street, which was quite suitable for a library. Members of the Association donated and bought many books, equipped the library with furniture and opened the building to the public. They took turns acting as librarians and kept the library open every afternoon and evening. Later they hired a librarian for six dollars a month! To earn funds for this munificent salary, to pay for coal and lights and to buy new books and supplies, the Association members gave teas, suppers, dinners, minstrel shows, musicales and dances. The library was housed in the old building for 24 years.

In 1920 John Tomay, a public-spirited resident of the town died, leaving his entire estate of cash and property to the Georgetown Library Association for a library building. The chosen site was on Sixth Street between Rose and Argentine streets. Several vacant buildings owned by people who had long since gone out of business and moved from Georgetown stood on the desired location. George Criley of the Clear Creek County Abstract Company contacted the absent families and all of them generously gave their land to the Association. Mr. Criley searched the records and made the abstracts free of charge.

In 1924 the cornerstone of the new building was laid and it was named the John Tomay Memorial Library.

When Mr. James Grafton Rogers became mayor of Georgetown in 1956, the library was taken over by the town of Georgetown, retaining the name of its benefactor. A municipal tax levy then became the primary base of support for the library. The city clerk, who was also the

librarian, retained an office in the library building.

The building is brick. The walls of the main reading room on the ground floor are lined with wooden shelving. The library has a second room with stacks and a basement for use as a storage area and work room, with additional space for showing films and holding story hours.

The library has retained a number of part-time non-professional librarians throughout the sixties and early seventies, and has utilized volunteers to provide service and maintain organization.

The John Tomay Memorial Library cooperates with the Idaho Springs Public Library and utilizes the services offered through the Central Colorado Library System.

In recent years the library has received additional financial support from Clear Creek County to help the library in its efforts to provide service to county residents outside of Georgetown and Idaho Springs.

The library's major fund-raising effort has been a book sale held annually in conjunction with Georgetown's Christmas Market.

During Colorado's Centennial Year this book sale brought the library over \$1400, or twice its normal book budget, enabling the library to fill many gaps in its collection, to carpet the original floor, and to purchase a coffee maker for local residents seeking comfort from the historic mining town's blustery winds.

The library is currently working on the development of policies, and procedures for volunteers, and is hoping to be joined in its efforts by a Friends group in the near future.

History courtesy of
John Tomay Memorial Library

Grand Junction Mesa County Public Library

In 1897 a subscription library was organized in Grand Junction by two enterprising clubs. The "ladies' library" as it was called, was located in rented quarters, and "anyone whose morals were unquestionably good was encouraged to maintain a subscription." In 1900 when the city boasted a population of 3,500 people, the council agreed to provide tax monies to cover operation expenses if Carnegie funds were made available to erect a building at 7th and Grand on the ground designated as Courthouse Square by George A. Crawford, commonly known as "Father of Grand Junction".

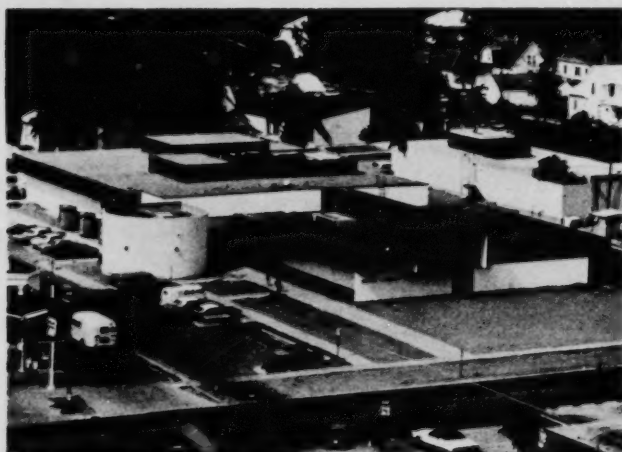
Mr. Carnegie protested mildly at paying for the foundation and porch of the library, insisting that he had agreed to provide the building only, and by the time dedication day arrived in 1901, library board minutes were not as reverential as at first, and some members doubted the wisdom of paying \$75 for a heavy bronze plaque commemorating the donor.

A new building was constructed with Public Works Administration funds in 1938 at the corner of Fifth and White. This three-story building boasted a meeting room with a stage as well as a large mezzanine lounge area.

The building directly behind the library was the old Lowell School, and within two years after the new City Library was occupied, the Mesa County Public Library started in the old school building. Financed by WPA funds and by Mesa County, the library served mostly

rural schools and patrons and one branch. An early bookmobile project lasted only a year before it was dropped for lack of funds. The County continued to support the library until 1953, when support was taken over by the Mesa College district.

Both libraries grew and expanded their services during the intervening years. The County Library moved twice — in 1950 to the basement of the City Library, and in 1959 to a building on North Avenue. The City Library became the headquarters of the Western Slope Demonstration Project in 1963, taking telephone requests from all public libraries on the Western Slope and sending those it was unable to fill to the Bibliographic Center in Denver. Teletype service began in 1968.



Mesa County Public Library. Photo by Henry M. Lipps.

In 1967 the two libraries combined after the State passed legislation allowing counties to assess a tax for library support. The City and the College deeded their respective libraries to the County along with enough money to carry the combined Mesa County Public Library until revenue from the tax came in. Planning and search for a site for a new building to allow physical combination of the two libraries began immediately.

At about the same time the library was designated as the System Area Resource Center for the newly formed Pathfinder System, and it continues to fulfill that function. In addition to the interlibrary loans made from its collection, the library makes bulk loans to other libraries in the System — some for new libraries and some for particular needs such as summer reading programs.

In December, 1974 all the planning and working of the County Commissioners, the Library Board, staff, and many others came to completion with the opening of the new building with the staffs and collections combined in it. One unique aspect of library service from this facility is its audio-visual program. Because of gifts from the Lions' Clubs in the county and a grant from the State Library of LSCA Title I funds, the library has facilities for special services to those with visual and aural handicaps.

The library is now giving library service to the county not only from its fine building near Fifth and Grand, but also from four branches, one affiliated library, and two bookmobiles. In 1975 it was designated as a selective Federal depository for government documents.

History by George Van Camp

Greeley Public Library

When the organizers met in December of 1869 to set up a constitution for the proposed Union Colony in Colorado territory, one of the items was . . . "the establishment of a reading room and library free to all members . . ." Among the organizers were Horace Greeley and a member of his staff, Nathan C. Meeker. Meeker became the founder of the Union Colony which later became the city of Greeley.

The Reading Room was established almost at once and is mentioned in the first edition of the Greeley Tribune, November 16, 1870, a few months after the first colonists settled. By December a Dramatic Society had been formed for the purpose of raising funds for a public library.

Various ways were devised to raise money, but each time it was used for irrigation canals and other practical needs of the colony.

After several years the library began once more, this time with a set of encyclopedias kept for public use in a drug store.

In March 1878 the opening of new reading rooms was described in the following words: "The rooms are fitted up in a cozy and attractive manner, and as the ladies are taking a leading part in the management, its success is assured."

In the early days of the colonies, land had been set aside for a school district. Some of these lots were sold and the money was used to buy books for the library. Captain David Boyd, a member of the school board went back east in 1879 and again in 1880 and bought \$400 worth of books consisting of history, poetry, fiction, science, and translations of the classics. The books were kept on a few shelves of the tower room of the Meeker School building and were in care of the janitor of the building.

The Greeley Library Association was formed in 1885 and money was raised through subscriptions. Subscribers had free use of the library. By 1886 the library was housed in the First National Bank Building. It was open two days a week. The library was well established in 1888 when a Library Board was appointed and the city took over the expense of running the library. The public was asking for more space and more hours.

In 1890 the stockholders turned the library over to the city of Greeley. The first annual budget was approximately \$500. Classification of the books and cards for a card catalog were begun in 1894. Two years later the library was moved into the semi-circular wing of the Central School, which was then the high school. Library hours were increased to four days a week.

J. Max Clark was appointed to the library board in 1897 and largely through his efforts money was being collected for a public library building. In the spring of 1906 the various womens' clubs joined forces and began helping with the fundraising. Investigations had been made concerning the Andrew Carnegie grants for library buildings, but civic pride and a desire for independence kept the community from accepting. The colonists believed in paying their own way with no strings attached. Bricks were sold for one dollar each, giving the buyer a life membership in the library. School children collected money. One boy gave the entire ten dollars he had earned for painting a barn.

By the time the \$17,000 library was completed, all the money had been raised for the building, but none was left

for books, shelving, and furniture. More was raised and the city appropriated \$1,800 per year. The building was opened in 1909 and served the people of Greeley until 1968. The dollar membership fee was continued until 1962. From then on membership card in the library have been free.

In contrast to the non-acceptance of the Carnegie Grant in the early 1900's, the library applied for and received a federal grant to assist in building the present library.

The library now has six board members — Mrs. Ralph Johnston, N. App, Wilma Scott, Mrs. Adolph Ley, Morris Judd, and Mrs. Donald Fine; all serve terms of five years. The city manager often attends the meetings and is a non-voting member.



*Greeley Public Library, City Complex Building.
Photo by Lew Daten Photos.*

The new library covers an area of 15,200 square feet and contains 92,500 volumes. Twelve full-time staff members are employed in the present Greeley Public Library.

History by Esther Fromm

Greeley Weld County Library

The Weld County Library was started in March, 1931 as the result of a talk given to the local chapter of AAUW by Mr. Albert Carter, then Librarian of Colorado State College. His theme of "How I Would Start a County Library with Fifty Dollars" was answered by a gift in that amount from AAUW and another of \$70 from the Greeley Woman's Club. The staff of the Greeley Public Library undertook the first organizational procedures, processing the books purchased with this money and those secured as gifts. Book matinees were held at local theaters, publicity was granted through the newspaper, and many groups in the community helped obtain books.

Since the Greeley Public Library furnished the first supervision, it was natural that the first housing was in the basement of the public library. In a few years, with the addition of a librarian and staff, first hired by WPA and NYA, later by the county, the library moved to a store building where it remained until December 1953. At that time it moved to a former garage and car showroom. In September 1960 the new Weld County Library building at 2227 23rd Avenue was dedicated. Except for a small addition in 1965, the library has had to accommodate its growth by various internal adjustments of space. At present, .008 of a mill is being allocated annually for building expansion.

The financial record of the library shows the continuing cooperation of the county commissioners through the years. The first tax support was granted in 1937 after a march on the commissioners' office by patrons from throughout the county. The first appropriation was for \$1,500, and the following year a mill levy was allowed. Later, support was returned to the County General Fund, and in 1976, from it, \$188,818 was budgeted with additional benefits of insurance, equipment maintenance, out-of-state travel, etc., being carried in the county's general budget.

The Weld County Library's service has been varied through the years. Originally it was to one-room schools only. At one time in its early history it included a speakers' bureau and a 16mm film collection, as well as circulating sets of textbooks. Presently the library circulates a wide variety of non-print materials in addition to the usual print resources. For a number of years the bookmobiles, now two in number, were used almost exclusively for visits to schools. Although the schools are still visited wherever no other public library service is available, the bookmobiles also make community stops at private homes, mobile home courts, and at nursing homes.

The county library has for many years loaned books to the small public libraries in the county, and with the adoption of the 1956 ALA standards for public libraries, a county system was considered in the effort to make more effective use of the materials and staff available. In 1958 the Platteville Public Library became the first member of this system, with the other six county libraries joining by 1960. In 1966 the Weld County Library System and the Northeast Colorado Regional Library System merged to form the High Plains Public Library System. Libraries from three more counties were added to form the present system for which Weld County Library still serves as headquarters library and System Area Resource Center.

In 1955 a Centralized Purchasing and Processing Plan was initiated for county school and public libraries. Eventually in 1961 this developed into the Northern Colorado Processing Center which operated until July, 1971. Since its closing the Weld County Library has continued to provide the service for any schools in the county that wished to purchase it, and has a cooperative agreement with the High Plains Library System to serve as a processing center for any of those public libraries wishing to participate.

Other special programs include children's story hours and summer reading programs, adult learning cassette tapes and the players for them, Mail-A-Book to county rural residents or shut-ins, a genealogy collection, special financial subscription services for businessmen, large-print titles, and a circulating collection of framed prints.

History by Elizabeth Bowers

The Weld County Library Board has five members, Forrest W. Frease, Ernest Ross, Marie Moinat, Mary M. Carlson, and Lillian V. Bird.

Gunnison County Public Library

The Gunnison County Library began serving the community in 1939 as Webster Hall Library. It was located in the community center known as Webster Hall and was the culmination of a community service program of the Gunnison Branch of the American Association of Univer-

sity Women. They collected and purchased the first 2,000 volumes and served as volunteer workers and fund raisers for many years. The rest of the community also gave of their time and means to keep the library open and functioning.

In 1961 a legal board of trustees was named and approved by the county commissioners and the first tax support was received from the county.

In 1965 the library was officially designated Gunnison County Public Library. During the same year, a branch library was started at Crested Butte. The Friends of the Library was also organized in 1965 as a community-wide supporting group.

In 1967 the Gunnison County Library became a part of the Pathfinder Library System with regional headquarters at Montrose.

The first proposals for a new library building were made and after a great deal of financial support from the local citizenry and matching federal grants and months of dedicated effort by several individuals, the new library building became a reality. The official opening was March 17, 1974. Since that time the Gunnison County Library has served the entire county more effectively. Library hours have more than doubled and the library collection is being continually improved. The library services offered are such as storytimes, summer reading programs, public discussions, homebound programs, and audio-visual materials. In 1974 the Crested Butte Branch Library also found a new home — a renovated railroad depot donated to the Crested Butte Historical Society.

Since a small library has its limitations, interlibrary loan and the Western State College Library are used to augment the collection. The Gunnison County Library has been fortunate in having much local support and appreciation.

Bonnie Baril serves as a librarian, and Ann Zugelder, Dennis Steckel, Marion Pittman, Nancy Ruehle, and Marty Johnson are on the Board of Trustees.

Compiled by Bonnie Baril

Haxtun Public Library

The time was July, 1925. The Haxtun PTA found itself with a Chautauqua on its hands, due to a recent panic and drought. The Ridpath-Horner Company had contracted with about twenty sponsors in addition to the PTA, to give the community a week of excellent entertainment. One by one, the backers asked that their names be withdrawn, until only six remained. The advance manager of the Chautauqua came to make final arrangements and was dismayed to find so few backers and the community drought-stricken. The guaranty was \$1,200. He offered to sell the program outright for \$800, with the use of the tent, his time and advertising amounting to an additional \$200. His offer was accepted as the best way out. The programs were all good, but up until the last day of the Chautauqua receipts were running behind.

On a hot, dry Sunday afternoon, the bus carrying the Tennessee Jubilee Singers arrived. The attendance was wonderful, applause was generous, and the sixteen fine Negro singers responded with their best efforts.

The PTA members then used every means — telephone line calls, calls to ministers in nearby towns, personal calls — to get a crowd for the evening program. Unlike the rains, which did not come, the people came, crowded into the tent and stood outside. When all expenses were

paid there were \$200 in the PTA treasury.

When an organization acquires a fund, naturally it looks for a worthy cause in which to invest the money. The need for a town library was evident. In April, 1926 all local societies, clubs and lodges were asked to send two representatives to a public meeting. An organization was effected with Mrs. E.J. Anderson as president.

Gifts were the only means of support until the library was reorganized under the State Library Law and taken over by the Town of Haxtun. In 1935 a levy of one-half mill was granted by the mayor and town council.

The library was first housed in the back room of the Haxtun Lumber Company which was given rent-free by Mr. J.B. Anderson. The first librarian was paid twenty-five cents an hour, but as funds ran low, local women served without pay. Helpful advice was received from Vance Austin and Miss Blanc of the National Youth Administration. It was pointed out that the town council could acquire the First National Bank building for a city hall and library, and the NYA would train girls in library work. This was done, and by October, 1939 all books were shelved in two adjoining rooms in the new city hall.

In March, 1957 the town council decided that it needed the rooms occupied by the library and offered to rent a room elsewhere to which the library would be moved. The library board voted to refuse this proposal and offered a counter-proposal: if the town would purchase a building where the library could be housed permanently, a move would be acceptable.

The town council accordingly purchased a brick building adjoining the City Hall. New tile floors, modern lighting, fresh paint, and venetian blinds made attractive quarters.

The other half of the brick building became vacant. This space was promised for the library use. The Lions Club members of Haxtun supervised the remodeling, financed by municipal funds. Open house was held on December 13, 1964.

In 1967 Mrs. Verneda Bieseemeier resigned, and Mrs. Esther Hohn became librarian. The library trustees asked the assistance of Weld County Library and Colorado State Library personnel to complete and standardization of the Haxtun Library. Their help, of course, was of great value.

In 1972 the library was confronted with problems. The floor was undermined by termites. The library was closed for two months, February and March. When it was reopened it had a new heating unit, a cement floor and carpeting, and some paneling.

Regional Library Service made it possible to have both 8mm and 16mm films on request, and a donated cassette player is also available for patrons.

The county commissioners of Phillips County gave revenue-sharing money in 1974 and 1975 with which the library acquired a copy machine, library stationery, new drapes, an electric fan to assist the air conditioner, a new library sign, and some special books in all sections.

The library collection contains 7000 volumes at the present time. A 1.12 mill levy is the major source of finance.

The Children's Summer Reading Program has always been successful. In summer 1975 hundreds of children participated.

The board of trustees members are Mrs. Reon Burton, Glenn Brundige, Mrs. Howard Meakins, Mrs. Larry McCarty, Mrs. Royce Potter, and Esther E. Hohn.

Compiled by Esther E. Hohn

Hayden Public Library

In 1930, the Woman's Club of Hayden took as a project the establishment and maintenance of a public library. The nucleus of the first book collection was a number of books of no use to students, returned by the school library which had received them from another library. These books in turn, no doubt, formed the nucleus of the books eliminated in a weeding project in the 1950s.

The Woman's Club started the library in a small room at the back of the drug store. The books were loaned without charge by the druggist. The shelves were built by shop students at the high school. The 25 club members took turns serving as librarians. The grand opening was celebrated with a book shower and tea, and 318 books and \$7.50 in cash were received. That first year, the club raised \$191 by its own efforts.

The next year the druggist needed his room, and the library moved to the lobby of the Central Hotel where it paid \$8 a month for inadequate space. In 1932 the club bought, repaired and equipped the building the library still occupies. It has been improved from time to time and has served long and well, but a close observer sighting from across the street might detect a slight bulge, a result of the crowded condition of the shelves, in spite of two rigorous "weedings". This situation is not to continue much longer, however, because of a series of windfalls 'way back when'.

In 1932 an eastern businessman was persuaded to donate a tract of land to the library instead of letting it go for taxes, with the understanding that the income would be shared equally with Hayden's hospital. Later another tract was received under the same arrangement.

In 1940 the town voted a tax levy to support the library.

Today the library boasts several extra-curricular activities including Great Books, American Heritage, and Great Decisions discussion groups, a story hour and a summer reading program for school children.

The present librarian is Jean Graham. The trustees are Duane Hockett, John Sundberg, Mary Williams, Ruth Lanker, and Alfred Sandercook.



Holly Public Library

Holly Public Library

In March, 1911 the newly organized Woman's Civic Club of Holly voted to sponsor a library for the use of the Holly community. Books were donated by people of the town and placed in a room in the Rockwell School building. A high school student served as librarian for seventy-five cents a week. In 1921 the Civic Club books were turned over to the school library.

In 1927, the Club decided to make another start on a community library. More books were donated, and the Civic Club members sponsored many projects, including box suppers, bake sales, pie suppers, cake walks, etc. to raise funds. The library was again located in the Rockwell School building with Club members volunteering to keep the room open every afternoon. One club member, Mrs. lone McMurtry, recalls taking her newborn son to the library in a basket when it was her turn to serve as librarian. This time the collection grew and the library prospered, and was moved to the building now occupied by the city clerk. In 1929 there were 530 books. Some of the books in the original collection are still on the shelves at the present library and are checked out frequently by patrons. A new city hall was built in 1938 under the Works Progress Administration. Space was included for the library, and now there were 2,400 books to move. The city voted five dollars a month for the purchase of children's books. A librarian and a helper were hired by the WPA, and many used books were mended and restored for circulation.

In 1942 the town council began to pay the librarian's salary of \$50 a month and continued the five dollar per month allotment for books. The library was open six afternoons a week until this year, 1976, when budget cuts necessitated a cut in hours. Books have been donated by friends, and rental fees and fines are used to buy new books and supplies.

An unabridged dictionary and stand, and several reference books were purchased by the Gilmore Fund, and a study table was provided for students. The Zonta Club has made substantial cash donations.

The disastrous flood of 1965 caused extensive damage to the library, ruining hundreds of books. Mrs. Neva Thompson, librarian at that time, and Library Board members spent long, arduous hours cleaning and salvaging books. A disaster grant from the Federal government enabled the Board to replace many of the flood-damaged volumes and to purchase new books.

In 1975, after 48 years of sponsoring the library, the Holly Women's Civic Club turned the library over to the town of Holly. The club still acts as Friends of the Library, sponsoring book sales, bazaars, and bake sales to raise funds to meet special needs of the library. The library is now a Public Library as defined by Colorado law, and became a member of the Arkansas Valley Library System in 1975. At this time the library has 6500 volumes on the shelves.

Presently Nola Ice serves as a Librarian. The Trustees are Gwen Dunn, Doris Coder, Myrtle Miles, Vivian Augustine, and Phyllis Pollart.

Compiled by Nola Ice

Holyoke Library

The Sorosis Club of Holyoke was organized in 1907 for the betterment of social and intellectual interests of the town and community and conceived the idea that Holyoke should have a library. In 1920 the club invited all local clubs of the town to meet together. The clubs met and agreed to promote the library project.

In 1922 or 1923 the Holyoke Library was started in one small room upstairs in the Phillips County State Bank building. The library asked for book donations and received many. In this one-room library the first librarian

was Miss Helen O'Neal, the second Miss Ellen Lantz.

The library soon moved to the northwest corner of the old court house where a room was partitioned off for that purpose. The community continued to donate many books. Here Mrs. Hattie Cole Lingo began her long 23 years of service as librarian.

Later the library moved again to the north side of the double house located on the west side of the Methodist Church and owned by Mr. R.N. White. This location is now a parking lot for the church. The librarian lived in the apartment above the library.

Mr. J.L. Knight, a long time resident of Fairfield, Iowa, owned eleven quarters of land in Phillips County, plus farm improvements, machinery, town property, and some cash. Mr. Knight often expressed the desire to promote and establish the best means of phonetic spelling. His will, made in April 1917, gave his property to be used for this purpose. Mr. Knight died on February 5, 1918. The will was contested and after eleven years of litigation, a settlement was reached. Although no special mention was made of the library, it was decided that using the inheritance for the use of the library would be the best way to fulfill Mr. Knight's wishes. Mr. Otto Fulscher was appointed special administrator, and served in that capacity from 1929 to 1939.

The property of Nora Millage was purchased with part of the inheritance, with the ground floor being used as the library, and the upper floor being used as the home of the librarian.



In 1969 the library was moved into its present location. This beautiful brick building was the former home of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Higinbotham. He was a prominent figure in civic and community affairs, who made many gifts to churches, hospitals, and other organizations. After his death on April 13, 1968, his home, two lots, and the garage were turned over to the town to be used as a library. The grounds had been beautifully landscaped during the time the building was used as a home. Now floors throughout the building have been carpeted with comfortable chairs placed about for the convenience of patrons. There are approximately thirty thousand books now.

When Mrs. Hattie Cole Lingo retired as librarian in the early fifties, Mrs. Emma Kramer served for several years. Then Mrs. Sarah Smith took the position in 1958 serving for eight and one-half years. Mrs. Goldie North took over the job in 1966 and served until 1976. The present librarian, Dorothy Anderson assumed duties in 1976. At

the present time the trustees are Gladys Barker, Earlean Jung, Helen Gueck, Art Vollmer, and Wilbur Davis.

Hot Sulphur Springs Grand County Library

The idea of a public library grew out of a search for a worthy project by the Hot Sulphur Springs Woman's Club in 1933. At first the books were kept in the homes of volunteers among the members, but since no formal hours were set, the interruption to social and family life proved too great a sacrifice. The library was then moved to a vacant room in the church.

It was found that books withdrawn by the Denver Public Library were to be had for the asking and transportation, and many fiction books were added to the collection in this way. Mrs. A.G. Fish, then President of the Colorado Federation of Woman's Clubs, donated several boxes of reference books from her own library.

Other towns in the county had started small libraries at about the same time. When the County Library bill was passed by the Colorado General Assembly in 1947, plans were under way at once to form a Grand County Library. Interested women from different parts of the county attended an organization meeting with the result that Mrs. J.P. Schilz of Granby was elected president, Mrs. Brice Sheriff of Hot Sulphur Springs vice-president, and Mrs. M.W. Baumgarten of Kremmling, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Harley Bryant of West Portal and Mrs. Carrie D. Schnoor, county superintendent of schools who lived at Grand Lake, completed the board for the new county library. Mrs. Schnoor offered her outer office in the new courthouse as a library location. A one-tenth mill levy was suggested which would provide approximately \$500 per year. Shelves were built to accommodate the 500 books now collected.

The book collection kept growing and new quarters had to be found. The Pioneer Society had moved the hand-hewn log building from Main Street to the courthouse grounds. It had been used for a county building from 1888 to 1902. The intention was to remodel it for a museum. The library board asked the commissioners for \$200 to complete the repairs so that the old building would be suitable for both a library and a museum.

The county now has four branches that are self-supporting but all operate under a Library Co-ordinator and the Grand County Library Board. The Kremmling branch opened in 1967, Fraser in 1968, Granby in 1970, with the other branch still in Hot Sulphur Springs.

This system serves an area of approximately 15,000 square miles with over 7,000 borrowers from a collection of 15,000. All four libraries are planning to expand their facilities.

Jody Cannon, Sue Morrow, and Betty Nunn serve as librarians. The trustees are Jean Miller, Gene Long, Crockett Kemp, Mary Kay McElroy, and Joyce Weatherill.

Compiled by Joyce A. Weatherill

Hudson Public Library

The Hudson Public Library was dedicated June 9, 1951 in memory of Anita Jeanette Caserotti, 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Caserotti, who was killed May 6, 1951 by a fall from a horse.

Mrs. Caserotti is the founder of the library. She started with a gift of 300 books from the Denver Public Library and loyal help from friends and neighbors. William Howard offered a building rent-free to house the library and the entire community rallied behind the project. A public bake sale, a miscellaneous auction, and a Lions' Club dance were a few of the enterprises which financed the library in the beginning.

Books came from many sources; individuals, clubs, and libraries in other towns made donations. Even a group of Girl Scouts in Milwaukee, Wisconsin took up a collection. From a beginning of 300 books, the library has grown to over 4,000 volumes.

In 1953 the town of Hudson voted to take over the support of the library and a one-mill tax was levied. In 1958 a building was bought with the aid of the town and a \$900 fund accumulated by donations. The building serves as as both City Hall and library, and the town clerk also acts as librarian.

Mrs. Marjorie Rice directs the library at the present time. The trustees are Eileen McPeck, chairman, Loleta Rice, Louise Parisen, Linda Tomas, Margaret Chamberlain, and Betty Sisson.

Hugo Public Library

Hugo owes its public library, started in 1921, to the efforts of the Hugo Woman's Club and its founder, Mrs. Connolly. The group collected books which were stored in Mrs. Connolly's home until the First National Bank offered two rooms in the basement for a rental of five dollars a month. The library was entirely supported by the Woman's Club until 1934 when the Town Board agreed to pay \$200 a year for the purchase of books. The library became a free library at this time, a nominal fee having been charged library patrons previously. Mr. E.I. Thompson, President of the First National Bank, gave the Woman's Club one thousand dollars for the library.

In 1923 Miss Adelaide Lloyd, the first librarian, was paid ten dollars a month to keep the library open two afternoons a week. She has been described as "a most genteel maiden lady whose oldfashioned attire was always a long skirt and a tailored blouse".

Books were donated by individuals, and the Denver Public Library sent some boxes of books. The collection remained uncatalogued until Miss Lloyd began the task.

By 1939 the library hours had been extended to three afternoons a week and a new librarian, Miss Lillian McNutt, replaced Miss Lloyd who was in failing health.

The Town Board offered the library new quarters in the Town Hall with all utilities paid in 1947. The same year the Library Act raised library support to a mill and a half.

From 1964 through 1968 Helen Cotellessa did volunteer work cataloguing, re-arranging books, and acquiring reference books.

In 1967 Hugo Public Library became a member of the Plains and Peaks Public Library System. The library has conducted a Story Hour for pre-schoolers and participated in a Summer Reading Program for many years.

Mrs. Dora Mae Vassios has been the librarian since 1969 when Miss McNutt retired. Jennie Summers, Carol Lowe, Franklin Pearson, Jean Cooley, and Miss Marilyn Brockman are the five members of the Library Board at the present time.



The library acquired more space in 1973 after the Town Hall moved to a different building. Since then it has taken on a new look with carpeting, curtains, and some new shelving.

Compiled by Dora Mae Vassios

Idaho Springs Public Library

The town council of Idaho Springs began working on Mr. Carnegie's offer of funds on April 24, 1903, and according to city records, the library plan was accepted by ordinance February 4, 1904.

Ground for the building was donated by a public-spirited lady, possibly a Mrs. Henry Plummer. Architectural plans were furnished by the Carnegie Foundation, and the building was constructed by the city's own agencies. Local builders Sidney Varney and Silas Knowles supervised construction and did all the brick and stone laying.

The face bricks were sand colored and imported. The inner back-up bricks were from the local brick yard. The stone window lintels, ledges, coping and cap stones were imported cut and dressed sandstone.

Interior wooden framing was all from local saw mills. The finish lumber for window frames, floors and wall mouldings was imported hard pine.

There has been no interior remodeling in the library proper. The building is light and airy with attractive triangular patterned glass above the windows and in the entry. The floor has been carpeted. As the *Front Range Journal* quotes Sidney and Silas saying: "We build them to stand".



The library is open 35 hours a week.

Idaho Springs Public Library is a municipal library, supported by a city tax levy, and serves all residents of Clear Creek County.

Mrs. Virginia Snow directs the library at the present time. The board of trustees members are Ruth Fugate, chairman, Russell Williams, Dorothy Kyler, Jodi Gingery, and Dale Snow.

Information courtesy of
Idaho Springs Public Library

Johnstown

Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library

The Johnstown Woman's Club had a lending library as far back as 1911 with books donated by members and purchased by the Club, which at that time was mainly a "literary" club. By 1925 they had acquired 1025 books which they donated to the school library so that it could become accredited.

There is a gap of thirty-three years in public library service until 1958 when Weld County Library bookmobile service began for individuals. The bookmobile had serviced the schools prior to this time, but now would also service the townspeople. The bookmobile service was infrequent and thus not sufficient for the needs of the town. In November 1961 a fund was set up at the death of Dr. Glenn A. Jones with an initial sum of \$489 which was eventually used, with a sizable donation from Woman's Club, to purchase the lot where the library stands today.

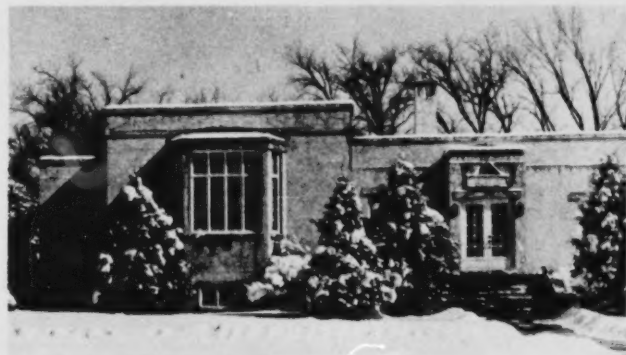
A lot is not a building, however, and it wasn't until the summer of 1965 that the library as a community library came into being. That first summer it was housed in the school library with Katharine Rooker, the school librarian, as librarian. Book stock was a large bulk loan from Weld County Library. This community library moved in the fall, at the beginning of school year, to the meeting room of the town hall, where the library was allowed the use of six stacks along one wall. These stacks were purchased with a \$250 donation from the Beetgrowers, and the salary of the librarian, Doris Wood, was paid by donations of Estrellita Club, Cheerful Learners Extension Club, Johnstown Woman's Club, Rotary, and School District RE 5J. In October 1965 the town of Johnstown voted a mill levy to support the operation starting in January 1966. At the same time the school board voted \$500 a year support. The town hall library was obsolete before it began, but at that time hopes were high for a separate library building.

In spring 1966 Dorothy Jones, wife of Doctor Jones, set up a trust fund for \$7,500 to be matched by donations from the townspeople. The town then re-applied for a \$15,110 federal grant which was awarded, and building began on the corner of Idaho and Jay streets. Major contributions came from Great Western Sugar Company, Teamsters Local 1065 (the union of sugar factory workers), Sarah Ruple, and Mrs. Jones. Many more smaller donations came pouring in by mail or were dropped off, many anonymously. The library committee — later board — consisted of Jane Sprague, chairman, Helen Atkinson, George Mellen, Marilyn Anderson, and Rev. E.A. Coltrin. Librarian, as of March 1966, was Anne Salberg.

Formal dedication ceremonies of the new building, now officially named the Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library, took place Sunday, October 22, 1967.

At this time Library Board members include Jane Herter, chairman, D.I. Peterson, Charles Rieder, Mary Ann Abrams, Charlotte Beeten, Anne Salberg is still Librarian, assisted by Katharine Rooker. The library still cooperates with Weld County and is a part of the High Plains Public Library System.

History by Anne Salberg



Julesburg Public Library

Julesburg Public Library

A Woman's Club dream came true, during Mrs. C.V. Parker's year as president, when under her leadership, and the untiring efforts of the club members, the library in Julesburg neared attainment. That was in 1921. The next year, during Mrs. George Thompson's presidency, the first public library was opened in July 1922, with about 500 books, the greater part donated. The location of the library was the northwest corner of the Citizen's Bank Building. In this first location, cataloging was begun, as well as the observance of "Children's Book Week".

The first few years there were four librarians: Mrs. Jess Jones, Mrs. C.B. McCampbell, Mrs. John Theiss, and Mrs. Jacob Frickel. All were members of the Woman's Club. Following these, Mrs. C. W. (Hazel) Labaree was appointed.

After the library was opened, the new goal was a building. Toward this end the club worked diligently, raising money in every possible manner.

The site of the present building was purchased in 1920 and the remaining lots on the corner were secured soon thereafter. In order to obtain city government money, the club gave the lots, together with \$1,200, to the city. In turn, the city gave \$2,000, and in 1935 the city government allowed \$9,733. On February 22, 1936 the groundbreaking ceremony was held. The cornerstone was laid on May 25, 1936. At that time Mrs. A.C. Anderson was the president of the Woman's Club. The next year, October 8, 1937 the building was dedicated with extensive ceremony. The interior of the building was not entirely finished. The members of the Congregational Church gave the money for a furnace. The library was moved on June 2, 1937 into the north wing, and the south wing was reserved for the Woman's Club room. This arrangement continues at the present time.

The Woman's Club has always provided books and furnishings for the library. The practice of charging twenty five cents for adult and ten cents for children's library cards was continued for many years but has now

been discontinued. Through the efforts of Dr. Rook, a member of the Town Board, the library now receives a mill levy which covers the upkeep on the building and the librarian's salary.

On September 1, 1956 Mrs. Labaree resigned, after thirty years of service in the library, and Mrs. Wilma Lytle was appointed librarian. It was she who adopted a new cataloguing system. Mrs. Wilma Lytle Pidgeon resigned September 1, 1962 and was replaced by Miss Hannah Jeannette Theiss, who was the librarian until July 1, 1972. She was replaced by her assistant, Mrs. Ruth Hensley, who is the present librarian.

The library is operated under the jurisdiction of the Town of Julesburg and a five member board of trustees. Three members were appointed by the Woman's Club from their members and two are members-at-large. The present board members are: Wilma Pidgeon, Catherine Lott, Judi Knipp, Grace Fox, and Helen Hogue.

The library is a member of the High Plains Public Library System. At the present time, the library has approximately 10,000 volumes.

Compiled by Ruth Hensley and
Wilma Pidgeon



Elbert County Library

Kiowa Elbert County Library

The Elbert County Library was established in Kiowa, the county seat, in 1937. The County Superintendent's office was the earliest home of the library, which later was housed in the basement of the courthouse. Women's Clubs of the county held money-raising events to finance the project; many gifts of cash and books were also received.

By 1950 the county was supplying a librarian's salary for one-day-a-week service, in addition to the free quarters. In that year, also, book-deposit stations were established in the various towns of the county. In 1955 the county purchased a small van which was fitted out as a bookmobile to deliver books to schools and the book stations. By this time it also qualified for state grants which were very valuable to it in terms of supplies and books.

The Plains and Peaks Library System was organized in 1966, and in order to be a member of this system the

library was required to receive tax funds. A state-owned bookmobile is now operated in conjunction with Lincoln County. Elizabeth has a branch library, supported in part by locally raised funds.

In 1970 the library was moved to the Catholic Church building, which was no longer in use. The church building, which dates from 1903, was remodeled in such a way as to preserve its beauty and sense of reverence. A plaque expressing gratitude to the Catholic community is located in the vestibule.

In 1975 the back room of the building was redecorated and refurbished as a meeting place for small public groups. There are now approximately 9,000 volumes in the stacks, including many basic non-fiction books, encyclopedias, and reference works.

Presently the trustees are Lyndall Scott, chairman, Nick Susurus, Margaret Shy, Helene Gresham, and Pat Hinds.

Compiled by Shirley Bauer

Lafayette Public Library

The Lafayette Public Library was started by the efforts of many public-spirited citizens in 1924. The first Library was housed in the north room of the old Congregational Church, the library's present location.

At this time a library board of seven members was formed. Memberships of one dollar per family entitled patronage of the Library. Since the Library was unfunded, it was necessary to use donated books and to have fund raisings. In 1929 with the sale of the Congregational Church Building to the Christian Science Society, the library was forced to move to the Rocky Mountain Stores Building.

The Wednesday Study Club decided to continue as sponsor of the library. The club sponsored raffles, card parties and membership drives. In 1950, the city council voted to take over the responsibilities of the library. Two years later the library was forced to move again, this time to the old bank building at 408 E. Simpson.

The library grew progressively, and in 1965, after 39 years of existence, it had a total of 6,120 books. Through county funds, the library was able to purchase the old Congregational Church Building, its first proper home, in 1964.

Although the library developed steadily in its first 42 years, the past 12 years have seen unexpected progress. The present city management, without whose help the library could not be as modern or as beneficial to the community as it is today, has given very valuable guidance.

In a remodelling project in 1970 gold-colored windows were added to accent the original stained-glass and to reduce glare inside the building. Carpeting was found to be the most economical and practical way to replace the badly worn floors. The installation of carpeting required removal of all books and shelves. In order to accomplish this removal, 100 volunteers formed a "book brigade" and moved all the books to storage in the telephone office garage and returned them a week later.

The library has been the recipient of many gifts from citizens and clubs in the community. These gifts include a desk, a clock, a movie screen, a cassette and tapes. Many citizens and clubs have also donated their labor in painting the building and in building library furniture.

The circulation has soared in recent years. The present book stock is 18,421 books, a sizable fraction of the 20,000 book stock recommended by the American Library Association to best serve a community of this size. A total of 1700 persons are now registered patrons of the library.

The many changes through the years can be attributed to a hard-working library board and staff. The five trustees are Mrs. C. Darrell Brubaker, Jess Rodriguez, David Bailey, Ernie Lombardi, and Glen Anspach. At the present time the librarian is Effie Amicarella.

History courtesy of
Lafayette Public Library

La Junta Woodruff Memorial Library

The public library of La Junta has been in continuous operation since 1888 when Thomas T. Woodruff purchased 735 volumes, selected mainly for the young, prepared a printed catalog, obtained the necessary material for circulating the books, and shipped all this to La Junta from Boston. This was the basis of the Young Folks Library of La Junta, Colorado. Miss Clara Sherwood, the kindergarten teacher, acted as librarian until 1894.

For many years the founder made it his principal business to collect books for the library. A trustee, Mr. Woodruff, held the direction and control of the library in his hands and continued to own the property. The city contributed toward the maintenance of the reading room.

In 1905 the City of La Junta passed a tax levy to aid in supporting the library. In 1912 a deed to the building, where the library was located, was offered to the trustees by Mr. Woodruff. With this foundation, and other income producing properties turned over in 1909, plans were started for a "substantial building".

The library at 6th and Colorado was dedicated in 1921 and named for Mr. Woodruff, who died in 1919. During Mrs. Lora Harrod Steele's tenure as librarian, extensive interior remodeling was done, especially in 1962-1964 when floor space was almost doubled by building balconies over 2/3's of the floor.



Woodruff Memorial Library

Some other important dates in the library's history are these: 1906, conversion to the Dewey Decimal system; 1948, installation of gas furnaces; 1964, a fire in the Woodruff block which permitted the library to get out of the landlord business.

Several of the original 735 books are still here — the present librarian's current favorite being *Encyclopedia of rural sports*, by John Henry Walsh, d. 1888.

City support of the library has increased throughout the years, yet, almost one-sixth of the library's anticipated 1976 revenue will derive from monetary arrangements which Mr. Woodruff instituted.

Presently Barbara Hanzas directs the library. The trustees are Spencer Burtis, chairman, Mrs. A.R. McKenzie, Stanton L. Roberts, Robert Sabin, and Sharon Kolomitz.

(Quotations are from "Brief historical sketch of the Young Folks Library of La Junta, Colorado", Oct. 30, 1905)

History courtesy of Woodruff Memorial Library

Lakewood Jefferson County Public Library

The Jefferson County Public Library was established in Golden in 1953 after several years of planning and hard work on the part of a number of citizens. Mrs. Gertrude Low of Lakewood spearheaded the campaign and deserves special credit for its success. The first librarian was Miss Phyllis Osteen.

The county appropriated \$10 for the first year of operation and made available a room on the second floor of the courthouse for headquarters. A dump truck was also given to the library by the county commissioners to serve the several branches which were proposed. Later the truck plus \$800 was exchanged for a Chevrolet station wagon. In 1957 the library moved to larger quarters on the first floor of the county building.

In the beginning the library operated three branches. Other small libraries soon joined the system so that the system has 12 branches today. Golden Regional Library was the headquarters unit of the system from 1952 to 1969, when the administrative unit and the technical services were transferred to another location in Golden. On January 1, 1953 the Lakewood Public Library became part of the county system. Wheatridge Library affiliated in May 1953, Kittredge on September 10, 1953, Conifer in 1954, Evergreen in November 1959, Edgewater on January 1, 1969, Arvada in 1969, Morrison on September 7, 1958, and on March 9, 1975, Littleton (Columbine Branch) opened as a branch of the system. It was the first school/public library cooperative project in the county.

In 1976, the Lakewood Regional Library opened and the Jefferson County Public Library headquarters were moved to this new library.

Today the county library has 337,000 volumes, and the budget is \$1,450,000.

From the very beginning the ultimate goal of the library has been to coordinate all library activities in the county "so as to provide the very best facilities to all residents of the county at a minimum of expense".

The board of trustees members are at the present time William Howard Smith, chairman, Conrad E. Gardner, Mary Lu Gregg, Laura Anne Miller, Norman E. Hodge, County Attorney Patrick R. Mahan and Judge Joseph E. Maker.

Information by Barbara Braswell and Ruby Cole



Lamar's old Carnegie Library, erected in 1908, has been phased out to make room for the new city complex.

Lamar Carnegie Library

One of the first libraries in Colorado outside the Denver area, the Lamar Carnegie Library, celebrated its 60th anniversary April 17, 1968. More than half a century had passed since Mr. C.C. Goodale and other citizens requested and received a \$12,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation for the construction of a permanent home for the library. Dedicated on May 28, 1908, the library stands proudly in the center of a park which was landscaped through the generosity of General William J. Palmer of Colorado Springs.

At the time of the dedication ceremonies where were performed by Dr. F.H. Roberts of Denver, there were 1,114 volumes in the library collection. Funds for the purchase of these books were donated by 45 subscribers.

Much of the credit for the success of the library program is due to Miss Josie Silver who served the institution faithfully for 40 years. Miss Silver knew and loved books, and was wise in her selection of titles for the growing collection.

The Lamar chapter of PEO was active in support of the library during its formative years and purchased many books to be added to its holdings. In recent years the Zonta Club has been generous with donations, and other women's organizations in Lamar have been loyal in their support of the library.

In 1966 a Friends of the Library group was organized which has remained active in its efforts to further library services in the community.

The Lamar Carnegie Library was one of the first to become a member of the Arkansas Valley Library System, organized in 1967.

For several years, the city fathers had visions of erecting a City Hall complex with a library on the lot occupied by the Carnegie Library. In March of 1975 plans were finalized, the library books and equipment were moved to temporary quarters in the Community Building and the Carnegie Library building was demolished.

In May of 1976 a new 80x80 feet building with all new furnishings was ready to house the Lamar Public Library.

Dorothy Henry serves as librarian at the present time. Evelynne Campbell, who submitted the most recent history, is the secretary of the board of trustees. The other board members are William Merrill, Laurine Hook, Dixie Munro, and Harold Short.

Las Animas Public Library

In the year 1922 the members of the Las Animas Woman's Club voted to sponsor the establishment of a library as a community project. Mrs. Wilkie Ham, President, appointed a committee whose responsibility was to make a door-to-door canvass for donations and/or money.

The balcony room at the rear of the M.E. Cooke drug store was donated by Mr. Cooke for the use of the first Las Animas Public Library.

When it was necessary to have additional room to house the library, the southwest room over the First National Bank was obtained. As circulation increased, it soon became necessary to move across the hall to a larger area.

In April 1926 the legal assignment of the library was transferred to the city.

During October 1953 the library was moved to the new city hall building — the street level location was, of course, most preferable. All clubs and organizations of the community made donations of furniture and fixtures for the new library.

In July 1959 ordinance #339 established a city library and created a board of trustees to govern and regulate it. The same ordinance also established and defined the terms of its powers and duties. In June 1964 this ordinance was amended by ordinance #351 relating to the board of trustees prescribing its power and duties. The board members are governed by a policy and procedure document.

The financial status of the library is enhanced by the Mrs. Franc Leedham trust fund of \$27,500, to which a memorial plaque bears witness. The interest received each year is designated for library expenditure. Bent County Commissioners appropriate \$960 per year for library support.

There is also a memorial book collection in honor of Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson, who was born and buried in Las Animas, Colorado.

In 1967 the Las Animas Public Library cooperated with 17 libraries in the Arkansas Valley to form the Arkansas Valley Public Library System.

The electors of Las Animas approved the ½ mill levy increase according to S.B. #264 at the general election held November 4, 1975. The library will operate on a two-mill levy beginning January 1976.

The present five board members are Mayor Alferd Putnam, chairman, Mrs. Alice Hyatt, Mrs. Christine Dietrich, Mrs. Tillie Chavez, and Gladys Nelson.

Compiled by Hazel L. Martin

Las Animas

Lower Arkansas Valley Regional Library

The bookmobile was first set up on a trial basis as a demonstration library supported by state and federal funds. Mayor Albert Coffey and Vera Wygle from Las Animas, and Gordon Bennett from the Colorado State Library did much to start this project. Books and equipment were supplied by the State Library. May Wood Wigginton was the first demonstration librarian with Lawrence Mott, driver. The first run was made on February 11, 1958 to Holly, Colorado. The bookmobile was to travel into seven counties: Otero, Crowley, Bent,

Cheyenne, Prowers, and Baca. But when the operation got under way only five counties were included. Otero had adequate libraries in its county and Baca decided against having the bookmobile.

In 1959 Mr. Mott became the librarian and Glenn Smock the driver-clerk. The bookmobile was welcomed in many places by many people — a success which led to the bookmobile demonstration becoming a Regional Library in February 1960. Mrs. Wanda Brown became the 1st Regional Librarian for LAVRL at that time. In 1967 Mrs. Nell Cox was the librarian and Elva L. Tull serves as librarian at the present time. The present clerk-driver is Norman Childers and the assistant librarian is Donna Bowers.

The bookmobile is housed at 415 Bent Avenue in Las Animas.

The first trustees were Judge George McLachlan - Prowers Co., Earl Asbury - Bent Co., George Hale - Cheyenne Co., Maxine Hughes - Crowley Co., and Betty Smith - Prowers Co.

The present trustees are Doris Forsyth, Pres. - Kiowa Co., Ralph Barbee - Bent Co., Sandra Durr - Cheyenne Co., Judge Robert Sanderson - Prowers Co., Myrtle Miles - Prowers Co., Downie Bishop - Crowley Co.

Compiled by Donna Bowers

La Veta Public Library

The La Veta Public Library was formed in April 1974, and opened to residents of the La Veta and Cuchara area in June 1974. It is housed in the La Veta Town Hall and employs librarian Willa Schaaf. Primary funding is from the Town of La Veta and Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners. The basic collection is fiction, a total of 2,300 hard cover volumes and 1,156 paperbacks. The reference collection includes a new set of World Book Encyclopedias and Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

A comprehensive Colorado Collection is in process. There are now 44 pamphlets and books in the collection.

Story Hour is held once a month for children, ages 4 to 10. Story readers are volunteers from the community. Annual money raising projects are a bake and book sale held every April. Also a community summer carnival is held in July.

The library was formed because the nearest library was 15 miles away in Walsenburg and not easily accessible, especially during winter months. Future plans include purchasing a building and expanding the children's and senior citizens' services. The library is a member of the Arkansas Valley Library System.

Willa Schaaf serves as a librarian. Board of Trustee members are Rose M. Cozzette, Chairman, Bonnie Kreutzer, Edna Schmidt, Judy Welch, and Marilyn Anselmo.

History by Rose M. Cozzette

Leadville Lake County Public Library

Although it had been repeatedly discussed and various temporary schemes tried since the early 1890s, the reality of a public library for Leadville began with a meeting of the town's citizenry on the evening of March 12, 1897.

The purpose of the meeting was to form a library association, and the public's response was enthusiastic. The Leadville Public Library Association was subsequently formed with Mrs. Mary Louise Stickley as President and sixty-five charter members. To gain public confidence, the association was incorporated under Colorado law on August 20, 1897.



Lake County Public Library

Opinions on how to use the three dollar per year membership fee were divided initially, but it was decided that all collections would be used for a building fund rather than for purchasing books. The fund grew very slowly during the next five years despite the numerous community efforts at raising money. Finally, as a last resort, application was made to the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The first two applications were not even acknowledged, but the third, largely through the efforts of Rev. David Fleming who had visited the Carnegie Institute, was favorably received. Soon came the reply that \$20,000 would be provided if the city would furnish a site and \$2,000 a year maintenance. The city quickly agreed and levied a new tax for the purpose.

The cornerstone was laid on October 25, 1902 and the library was formally opened on January 8, 1904. The first librarian was Miss Zoe Guernsey and chairman of the new library's board of trustees was Jesse F. McDonald, later Governor of Colorado.

The early part of the 20th century saw a drastic decrease in Leadville's former prosperity. Often city warrants could not be redeemed and library salaries went unpaid for months. Mrs. Stickley, who served for many years on the library board and for many more years as an unofficial advisor during this difficult period, remembered the library in her will by setting up a trust fund that is still active today.

In 1947 the board of trustees requested that the library become a county library under the provisions of the 1947 Library Act in order to receive county funding. This was approved by the county and the Public Library of the City of Leadville became the Lake County Public Library on December 1, 1947. In October 1967 the library became a part of the Three Rivers Library System.

During the 1960s it became apparent that the original Carnegie building had become inadequate, and in 1967 active planning for the new facility was begun. Matching federal funds were obtained and work began at the 12th and Harrison site on September 3, 1970. The new library building was officially opened on May 5, 1971. It contains over 7000 square feet with space for over 20,000 volumes in addition to a public meeting room. Total cost was \$160,000.

During its seventy-two years of service, the public library in Leadville has enjoyed the role of being geographically the highest public library in the world.

History by Roger A. McClurg
Roger A. McClurg directs the library. The Board of Trustees members are Wilbur Smith, Chairman, C.W. Hoffman, Kathy Slifka, Kay Knappmiller, and Estelle Ellis.

Limon Memorial Library

The idea of a public library in Limon was conceived by Miss Edith Bell, a high school teacher, in 1947. She called all interested persons together at the town hall for the purpose of establishing a community library. It was decided to ask the town board for the use of an empty space in the back of the town hall. The board consented, and a committee began to collect donations of books. Many years ago there had been a library in the town hall and some books had been left there. The usable titles were cleaned and made ready for circulation.

In connection with the official opening of the library in January 1948, a silver tea was held to raise money for supplies. The public was also invited to bring any books they wished to donate to the new program. The tea was a success, many books were donated, and 35 loans were made the first day.

The library was kept open on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. The Limon Woman's Club consented to sponsor the project and began to contribute \$20 each month. Later the town board voted to pay the librarian's salary.

A drive for a community building, which was to contain room for the library failed after several people had pledged money for the project. Mrs. Lee C. Habberthier headed a movement to persuade the donors to pay their pledges to a library building fund instead. The first and largest donation was made by Ivan Williams.

When enough money had been collected for the building, a petition was circulated to have a mill levy voted at the next election to provide funds for running expenses and upkeep. The levy passed and the library building was occupied in May, 1951.

Mrs. Lee Habberthier, Librarian, more than any other person, is responsible for the success of that program.

The new library, located at the corner of 6th Street and "E" Avenue, was soon bursting at the seams and it became necessary to have more space. A new addition was begun in 1967 and was completed the following year.

The bookmobile program came into being in 1966 and continues to perform a valuable service to the rural areas. It was also in 1966 that Limon Memorial Library became a part of the Plains and Peaks system.

In 1969 Mrs. Habberthier retired as librarian and was honored for her many years of faithful service by the library board, family and friends at a dinner and ceremony held at the Tamarack Country Club on April 17, 1969.

Mrs. Robert Vratil was appointed as the librarian. Mrs. Vratil is an energetic lady dedicated to beliefs that everyone should read, that books should be available to all levels and ages, and that the library should be a center of community cultural activity. Mrs. Vratil is assisted by Mrs. Howard Clark and Miss Margaret Freil.

Upon the death of Mrs. Frances Payne, library board

member and devotee, memorial funds were directed to the Limon Memorial Library. With these funds it was possible to create a Young Adult Reading Center.

Other activities and programs sponsored by the library include a "Great Books" discussion group, which began in 1967 and continues to the present day. A weekly story hour is available for pre-school children. Large print books and magazines are available for those whose eyesight is less than perfect. Records are available to suit all tastes, from "rock" to Rachmaninoff. An "American Issues Forum" bringing guest lecturers to the community is library sponsored.

The library operates on \$9,000 a year, which includes funds budgeted from the city as well as gifts and memorials. Statistics in 1975 proved that 17,290 books had been circulated that year. The library has 9,580 titles and 872 registered borrowers.

History by Mrs. Kenneth S. Liggett

The Board of Trustees members are Gene Leverett, Chairman, Dave Schroeder, Betty Walker, Muriel Raines, and Marcine Straub.

Littleton Arapahoe Regional Library District

The Arapahoe Regional Library District was organized in April 1966 as an answer to the need for library service to the Arapahoe County residents living outside the city limits of the three large municipalities in the county — Aurora, Englewood, and Littleton. Prior to the District's formation, library service was provided by these three cities, and the cost of the service was paid from the County General Funds. With expanding growth in the unincorporated area bringing with it the need for roads, bridges, police protection, and other such county services, library service could no longer be financed from the General Funds. By action of the County Commissioners and School District 26J (Deer Trail) the District was formed and the first board of trustees appointed. Financing under the law gave the District a mill levy up to 1.5 mills of the assessed valuation of property within the District boundaries. These boundaries include all of Arapahoe County with the exception of Aurora, Englewood, and Littleton. The small portion of Adams County which is in the Deer Trail School District is also included.

By December 1966 a used bookmobile had been purchased and refurnished, a driver and a librarian had been employed, and work had begun on a book collection. The District began its bookmobile service to the eastern portion of the county in February 1967.

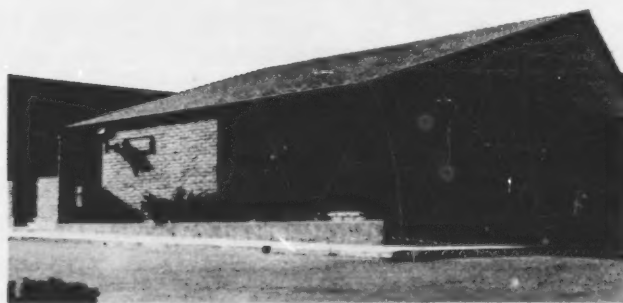
As the population of the county grew, so did the District's library service. By 1969 the first small library was established in Altura, now a part of the city of Aurora. The relocation of this outlet to Southglenn, just outside of Littleton, in 1970 marked the beginning of a period of rapid expansion of District services. In 1970 the Walnut Hills Library was opened as an experimental community library in the Walnut Hills Elementary School. In October 1972 the District joined with the Sheridan School District in establishing a cooperative school-public library combination in the Sheridan High School. A new bookmobile purchased in late 1972 gave the District the opportunity to use the old bookmobile as a small library in the community of Byers. This vehicle,

newly cleaned and brightly carpeted, provides a 4,000 book collection to east Arapahoe County residents two days each week. The Southglenn Library was moved to the Western Federal Savings and Loan building when construction began on the giant Southglenn Mall in late 1973. Renamed the John V. Christensen Library on its reopening, it has become the largest library in the District system. The headquarters for the District is at the John V. Christensen Library. The newest library, Greenwood, began service to the public in January 1975. Located within Greenwood Plaza, it serves the office workers in the complex and many of the residents in the surrounding area. Walnut Hills Library, which left the school in 1971, moved first to a location on South Yosemite Street and finally to Arapahoe Road near the Valley Highway.

Growth of the District has been phenomenal. From a bookmobile and two employees in 1966, the District now has a system of five libraries, bookmobile service, and a staff of 28 people. Circulation has risen from 32,175 items in 1967 to 288,324 in 1975. Population in the Arapahoe Regional Library District has increased from approximately 27,000 in 1966 to 72,100 in 1975. Cooperation with the cities of Aurora, Englewood, and Littleton, allows the residents to use any of the libraries of these cities. The formation of the Arapahoe Regional Library District has been the final link in a network of libraries easily available to the residents of Arapahoe County.

The board of trustees members are William A. Murray, Margaret Toppel, Lenore Jacobs, Jeanne Davies, Thomas Whitby, and Beulah Davies Anderson.

Compiled by Ann E. Kelver



Arapahoe Regional Library

Littleton Edwin A. Bemis Public Library

The Littleton Library was first established in 1896 in a room in the Town Hall. Mrs. Martha Crocker enlisted the support of the Women's Club to raise funds and provide staffing on a volunteer basis.

In 1914, the Town Council expressed a growing interest in construction of a library building. Application for a grant was made to the Andrew Carnegie Corporation which approved an appropriation of \$8,000 for construction. The Town Council provided the land and pledged fiscal support at a level of 10% of the cost of the building. Jacques Benedict was engaged as architect and the "Carnegie Library" opened in a location at the west end of Main Street in August of 1917.

The library grew very slowly at first, but in the late 1950s the budget was increased substantially and the staff enlarged. This growth created its own problems, however, and by 1962 it had become apparent that the collection had outgrown the facility.

It was decided that the best course of action would be to build a new facility which would function as a center of community cultural activity as well as a library. Architect Eugene Sternberg was hired to design a building which would reflect this concept. The new building at 6014 South Datura Street was dedicated in October 1965. Its design incorporated an art gallery and community meeting rooms as well as the usual library use areas.

The old library building was modified to serve as police headquarters. It has been designated as an historic structure and will be preserved as such when the police department moves to new facilities in the near future.

The library collection again experienced a spurt of growth when the new building opened. In the past ten years, the collection has grown from 35,000 volumes to over 80,000. In 1972 an undeveloped area on the lower level was finished to serve as a reference room. This alleviated the shortage of shelving space for several years. At this writing, however, the size of the collection is again generating discussion concerning expansion of the building.

The library programs and services have benefited greatly from the support of an exceptionally creative Friends of the Library/Museum organization. Perhaps the most unique activity of the Friends is the annual Fiasco. This is a fund-raising theatrical production which spoofs the social and political happenings in Littleton. In entertainment value, it rivals the efforts of many Broadway productions. Profits from this event are used to enrich the programs of the library and museum.

The Board of Trustees members are Marilyn Borger, chairman, George Smith, Edie Shank, Lou Craig, Mike Reynolds, Janet Green, and Jeanne Filter.

History courtesy of
Edwin A. Bemis Public Library

Longmont Public Library

Within four months after the colonists had surveyed the site of the Chicago Colony, Library Hall was opened. According to C.W. Boynton, it was the *first* library built in Colorado. Reverend Robert Collyer had mentioned a library at a meeting in Chicago in January 1871 as being part of the planned community.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson of New York City gave the first building. While not a colonist herself, she was a benefactress of the Colony and vitally interested in it. She insisted that a library be built right away.

The first building (now 335 Pratt) was 18x48 feet, with a vestibule of 18x18 feet. This vestibule contained the library with its "300 standard volumes and over 3,000 engravings and prints from the world-famous Thompson collection". An organ, a bell for the handsome belfry and the flag were donated by the Chicago agent, Colonel C.N. Pratt. The opening of the building on June 16, 1871 was celebrated with a Strawberry Festival, furnished by Mrs. Thompson to five hundred celebrants. For many years this festival was a local tradition.

First librarian, W.H. Terry, was only fourteen. His

duties included ringing Library Hall's bell at 7 a.m., and 6 p.m. and midnight, as well as at 8:45 a.m. when school was in session.

Reasons why Mrs. Thompson sold Library Hall in 1884 to Dan Ramson are unknown, but the Hall continued as a public meeting place until 1889. Records show that in 1888 the WCTU's reading room was opened to the public. This Main Street building, known as the Mumford Building, was torn down in 1969 to make room for expansion of the First National Bank.

Each of various clubs and associations in Longmont continued its own circulating library until 1903. At that time representatives of these libraries, along with other public-spirited citizens, met to form the Longmont Library and Lecture Association. A collection of all their books made a library of over 600 volumes. Along with these were 400 volumes donated by business firms. The Library and Lecture Association helped to pay the salary of Miss D.A. Garvin, the librarian engaged when the building reopened in October 1903.

The library became a city agency by a "resolution creating a free public library" adopted by the City Council on March 12, 1907. The first library board was composed of C.W. Longren, Sard Weist, Albert Dakan, Mary E. Hayward, Mrs. I.L. Herron, and C.W. Boynton. The location of the library remained unchanged.

As early as 1904 the Library and Lecture Association discussed the value of a Carnegie gift for a new library building. Controversy concerned the building's location, the cost to the city and the value of a library. It was not until 1907 that Reverend Longren received a letter stating that the gift would be forthcoming provided the site and library maintenance were provided. Subscriptions were taken to pay for the site and the building was built in 1912 and occupied until 1972.



Longmont Public Library

The present building was occupied in August of 1972 as a part of the total Civic Center Complex. It was built solely with sales tax money and contains 22,000 square feet.

Librarians since 1903 have been Miss D.A. Garvin, Miss Reba Day, Miss Genevieve C. Dorsett, Mrs. Rae Kiteley, Robert Houze, Miss Marian Sundquist, and Mrs. Beatrice Malchow.

Presently the board of trustees members are Robert Askey, Paula Johnston, Lillian Norman, Charles Parker, and Kay Sandmeier.

Compiled by Bea Malchow

Louisville Public Library

The Louisville Public Library was organized in 1924 as a project for a group of Camp Fire Girls.

In January 1924 the charter for Chinook Camp Fire Girls was received in Louisville, and the first major project was to collect books to form a public library.

Since there were no funds from the town to operate the library, local women donated their time to supervise the circulation of books in the limited open hours.

By 1926 the first Camp Fire Girls were graduated from high school, and so more help for the library was necessary. In November 1926 Saturday Study Club members assumed supervision. Each year the club appointed two members to serve a two-year term on the board of trustees, composed of four women. The board directed all affairs of the library. When the Town Trustees began to give limited funds to operate the library, the board was able to make two trips each year to purchase books. After the fall purchase the Saturday Study Club had a book review and tea to display the new books. The silver offering added additional funds to the library. The tradition of the book review was continued until 1970.

During the years when the library was under the supervision of the Saturday Study Club the members reviewed books to children at local schools during Children's Book Week. Cards were purchased by borrowers for ten cents for 14 checkouts, and the Study Club members gave each school child a free card during the Book Week visits.

Location of the library until 1941 was on the second floor of the Town Hall, above the Fire Department. From 1941 until 1949 the library was located in the vacated school building, now the Community Building in Memory Square Park. This building had been renovated to house the library.

In late 1949 the library moved to a small building on Main Street, a former barber shop at the site which later became City Hall. By 1950 the hours of opening had been increased to two afternoons a week, as the library was still opened on a volunteer basis, and the circulation for the year was 1,532. The first librarian was hired in 1954 for \$15 a month.

In September 1957 the library was moved by the Saturday Study Club members with five young boys to help, into the rear of the corner lot on Main Street.

When Louisville became a city of the second class in 1960, the Saturday Study Club passed the control of the library to the City of Louisville.

In 1964 the job of cataloguing the collection was undertaken by a new librarian, Larela Stout, with the Colorado State Library giving assistance. The East Boulder County Library System was formed for purchasing and processing books, and in December 1967 Louisville Public Library joined the Central Colorado Public Library System.

The present trustees are Charles Hogg, chairman, Ms. C.J. Olsen, Mrs. Leon Wurl, Mrs. Russell Cunningham, and Lafayette McClard.

Compiled by Vera Taylor

Loveland Public Library

The first library in Loveland was started in 1885 and was known as the "Circulating Library". Books and papers were shipped into Loveland by train, taken care of

by some public-spirited woman who donated her time and services for this purpose, and given out to everyone who wished to read them. After a period of use, they were sent on to another town, and a new shipment sent here. The story of how this came about is told in an interview given in 1931 by Mrs. Eliza Johnson and Mrs. Anna V. Duffield.



Loveland Public Library

The idea of an organized library in Loveland originated with the Woman's Improvement Society in 1903 when its members found that they had nothing left to improve — the saloons in the town having been abolished by a vote of the citizens. A subscription library was started in the home of one of the members of the Society. This library later moved to an upstairs room of a store building.

In October 1905 the library of 1000 books was handed over to the City Council which promptly voted a one mill levy to support it. In 1907 a grant of \$10,000 was obtained from Carnegie Foundation, and the Carnegie building was dedicated in the fall of 1908 during the administration of Mrs. Anna Duffield. After Mrs. Duffield, Mrs. Dorcus Winzenried held the position of librarian for 25 years.

The same quarters had served until 1963 without changes or additions. The building was overcrowded and outmoded for a town the size of Loveland, but efforts to erect a new structure had been unsuccessful.

There was a certain charm about the old ivy-covered building surrounded by stately elms. Its high ceilings and steep stairs were picturesque, and every corner was crowded with books and memories — memories of story hours, author-lecturers telling of their books, and friends who had met there to talk over old times.

A bond issue failed to pass in 1955, but was finally successful in 1963. The present building, erected on the original Carnegie library site, was occupied in July 1965.

In 1965 the Loveland Public Library owned about 35,000 books with a circulation of a little over 136,000. In 1975 the library owned over 54,500 books and circulated over 185,500. There were 6,400 library patrons in 1965, and this number increased to 13,500 in 1975.

The Loveland Public Library is a member of the High Plains Public Library System which gives its patrons many advantages. Some of these are access to special book and AV collections including 16mm film, cassettes and 8mm film and interlibrary loan services.

The present trustees are Olive Zaruba, William McCullough, Priscilla Beal, John Easley, Gilbert Garcia, and Don Hataway.

Compiled by Elaine A. Puls and Zethyl Gates

Mancos Public Library

In 1942 at the site where Jackson Gulch Dam was to be built, a camp for conscientious objectors was established in barracks formerly occupied by the Civilian Conservation Corps. At the end of World War II the camp was abandoned and the books of its library were offered to the Town of Mancos. The generous gift was accepted immediately by the Mancos Civic Club, hauled to town and stored in a warehouse.

Sometime later the Civic Club called a public meeting at which a library committee was formed under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ada Plumlee, and the first steps were taken to establish a town library. Plans for its organization were formulated and the idea of a library for Mancos began to gather momentum. Committees were selected to sort, mend, and catalog the gift books, and space in which to house the service was provided in the old town hall. The Mancos Public Library was officially opened to the public November 9, 1946.

Mrs. R.E. McCluggage was appointed librarian, and the program was launched on a three-afternoons-per-week basis. As the library expanded every club and organization in town, and nearly all the citizens, pitched in with contributions of time, money, building materials, furniture, books, and manual labor to make the venture successful. When it was discovered that the library's tiny budget would not permit the hiring of attendants, volunteer workers were recruited.



In 1949 a new elementary school was built and the library was moved to the basement of the high school where it occupied the space which was formerly used as kitchen and lunchroom. In 1950 it was moved into a separate building on the schoolgrounds. A year after this move the Mancos town board voted to appropriate funds to support the library. The library provided service to the community in this building until 1963. During this period the school classrooms were becoming very overcrowded,

and in 1963 it was decided to close the library and use the building for a classroom. The books were put into storage until the following year when the VFW agreed to provide space for a combined library and museum. The library is still in the VFW building.

When the library reopened in the VFW building, it was staffed with volunteer help. In 1967 Mrs. LaNita Fitzgerald was hired as librarian, and a few years later Mrs. Dorothy Trevino was hired to assist her. In 1976 the library obtained its first professional librarian, Mrs. Marionetta Cooper.

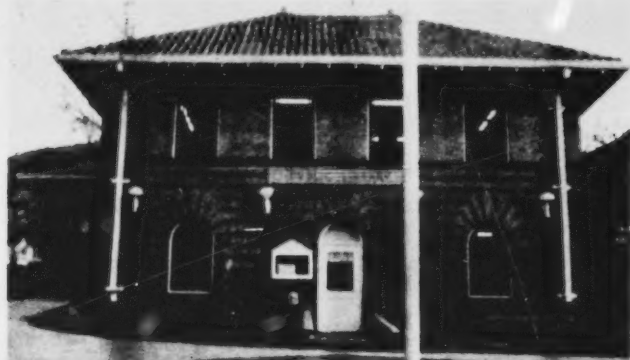
The library is a member of the Southwest Public Library System.

The present trustees are Mary Coppinger, chairman, Mary Richards, Shirley Haines, Jean Bater, and Vail Waggener.

Compiled by Marionetta L. Cooper

Manitou Springs Public Library

Manitou's first library was established in 1900, in the Parish house of the Episcopal Church. This was located across the street from the new Church on Canon Avenue near the sparkling clear little mountain stream romantically named the Fontaine que le Boule.



Manitou Springs Public Library

The Rev. Benjamin Walter Bonnell of the St. Andrews Episcopal Church organized twelve ladies from the several churches in the town, and the group carried on with enthusiasm and purpose, establishing a library and reading room that was well patronized by tourists and townspeople.

At the turn of the century Manitou had gained a reputation as a fashionable resort spa, and many tourists stayed the entire summer. The D & R G railroad built a spur into town and the main line of the Colorado Midland ran through town. There were many elegant hotels, small stately castles, and two natural stone churches, not to mention a sprinkling of saloons and livery barns.

The library was aptly named a Reading Room, for many folks spent hours in the little parish house.

It was about this time that the famous multi-millionaire Andrew Carnegie retired from the steel business and decided to spend the rest of his life and most of his fortune in establishing philanthropies. Probably the most remembered of his works was the building of some 2800 library buildings across the country. The Carnegie Institute would build and equip a library where the local

authority provided a site and maintenance and operation.

Several prominent men sponsored this project. Among them were W.B. Kirby, Mayor, C.H. Austin, J.B. Paulson, H.M. Ogilbee, E.E. Nichols, Charles Meador, and H.H. Grafton who gave generously from his personal library.

For some time there was some lively debates concerning the site, but finally it was settled on the large acre-size lot at the corner of Pawnee and Manitou Ave.

The present building was begun in 1910 and finished in February 1911. Constructed of light brown brick and red-tiled roof, it complemented the many brick and stone buildings about the town at that time. The sponsoring Episcopal Church had been erected five years earlier of beautiful Manitou Green stone.

One of the earliest librarians was Miss Clothilde Reichmuth who held this position for forty years. She was followed by Marguerite Aldrich, and in 1963 by Mrs. Helen B. Hill. During this time the town offices had occupied the lower floor of the building. When these offices were moved to more spacious quarters, the lower floor was used for a children's section.

In the last few years the grounds were upgraded; shrubs and stonework were furnished in memory of board member Katherine Haas. Many local organizations such as the Woman's Club as well as individuals were generous with gifts given as memorials.

In January 1974 Mrs. Hazel Erb became librarian upon the retirement of Mrs. Hill. Under the leadership of Gary Miller, the present superintendent of schools, several improvements of the building were made. A new carpet and new steel shelving were installed in the children's section.

Many other improvements such as a 3M copier and a listening center were added. The policy of adding some twenty new books a month with the McNaughton service has been very popular. Many best-sellers are available, as well as numerous books through the interlibrary loan system.

The library is a member of the Plains and Peaks Library System, and it is operated and maintained by the City of Manitou Springs.

History prepared by George Price and Rudy K. Liby

Manzanola Public Library

In January of 1921 Mrs. D.E. Hunter, newly elected president of the Manzanola Country Club, announced as her special project for the year the establishment of a public library. She named three ladies of the club as a committee to assist in laying the groundwork for the undertaking. The first money for the project was raised by serving lunch at a farm sale held at the home of one of the members of the club.

The nucleus of the library was a set of classics purchased by the club and used as a study course in 1922. A door-to-door canvass was made in order to collect books "in good condition and suitable for library use". In addition, each club member was asked to contribute at least one new book or money to purchase a new title. This custom of holding a book day once a year was continued for a number of years and proved a very successful way to obtain new materials.

During the second year of Mrs. Hunter's term, interest in the project grew. Money was raised by tag days, food

sales, farm sales, and home talent plays. Other organizations and individuals contributed generously. Use of space in the recreation room of the State Armory was donated to the club. Book cases were built, tables, chairs, rugs, and other furnishings were provided, and the library was opened in March 1923.

Members of the club took turns serving as librarians. When the success of the library was assured, it was presented to the city to become a city library with the stipulation that there would always be at least one member of the Country Club on the library board. The club continued to sponsor the library and to support it financially, and with the help of the city it was possible to pay a small wage to a librarian. Mrs. A.B. Hughes accepted the post and served faithfully for many years. She visited other small libraries, studied cataloging techniques and set up a good system for Manzanola.

In 1939 surplus material from buildings that were being replaced at Ft. Lyon became available, and the city council, in cooperation with the club and other organizations, procured an amount sufficient to build a small library with the help of WPA labor. The building was located near the south side of Beaty Park which at that time was laid out with paths and trees. The Country Club furnished shrubs and flowers and with assistance from a local landscape gardener beautified the surroundings.

In 1956 a plan was worked out between the library board and the high school permitting the school to move its book collection into the library building. The school provided a librarian five afternoons a week during the school year and other support. The city and the Country Club continued their financial support and provided a librarian during the summer.

A new agreement was made between the public library and school district in early 1963. The library was moved into the old gym which was converted to a library and 3 classrooms. The agreement drawn up between the school district and the public library states that the school district will provide a librarian.

In October 1975 the Manzanola Public Library was admitted as a member of the Arkansas Valley Library System. This library became a member of the Otero County Libraries in 1975 through an equalization grant.

At the present time Sarah Lopez serves as a librarian. The board of trustees members are Helen Smith, chairman, Phyllis Geist, Sara Lester, Pat Zwick, and Sarah Lopez.

History by Sarah Lopez

Meeker Public Library

The Meeker Public Library owes its existence to the efforts of a group of public-spirited women who organized the Meeker Woman's Club for the purpose of sponsoring a library.

The first meeting of the group was held July 14, 1913 at which time Mrs. Ray Garrison and Mrs. R.H. Taylor presented the objects for which the meeting was called, and Mrs. John Clark was elected president. After the officers were chosen, the president appointed a committee to be known as the Library Committee which was charged with the responsibility of securing funds and making arrangements for opening a reading room and library.

After careful consideration the building at the corner of

Park Avenue and Sixth Street which belonged to L. Tagert and A. Strehlke, was rented. As an historical monument the library's new home had great significance, since it was in this building that government troops were quartered after the Ute uprising in 1879.

Two young librarians were hired at a salary of \$5 a month each. Rental of the library building amounted to \$7.50 per month. Two of the rooms in the rear were rented out for \$3 a month, and the renters were responsible for the janitor work in the library.

A great number of good books and magazines were contributed by interested citizens, new titles were purchased, and soon the shelves made a very creditable appearance. In order to raise funds to carry on, a number of projects were launched. These were public dances, plays produced with local talent, teas, moving picture shows and other kinds of benefits.

In April 1918 the Woman's Club decided that it was not able to secure sufficient funds to operate the library successfully, and it was voted by the citizens that the Meeker Public Library be maintained by the town. A one-half mill levy was provided for this purpose, and Mayor W.D. Simms appointed the first official board of trustees which included four members of the Woman's Club.

After a number of years the library outgrew its original quarters, and the county commissioners allocated space in the beautiful new courthouse, built in 1938.

Mrs. W.D. Simms served as librarian for 22 years, during which she did much to develop the library's services and to expand the collection.

In June 1974 the library was again moved — this time to the new Freeman E. Fairfield Community Center, where it occupies a spacious area in one end of the Center complex. There is ample seating space and a lot of room for collection expansion.

Through hard work and determination the Meeker Woman's Club established the Meeker Public Library, an institution which is a credit to the town and a source of pride and satisfaction to the club. Not only townspeople, but residents of Rio Blanco County are eligible to use the library.

Steven W. Anderson, who provided the most recent history, serves as librarian. The trustees are Mrs. Ernest Marietta, Mrs. R.S. Lough, Mrs. George R. Wilbur, Mrs. Keith O. Ball, Phillip A. Jensen, Harry Crawford, and Clarence Ruehle.

Meeker

Rio Blanco County Bookmobile

The Bookmobile Library in Rio Blanco County was started in 1952 in order to give free service to the rural people of the county. The first year of operation Mr. Walter Keller, the "Bookmobile Man", used a unit and books which were borrowed from the Colorado State Library. The unit proved impractical because of weather conditions, for much of the time during the winter months Mr. Keller had to break his way through the snow to ranch homes which were off the main highway.

As a result, Mr. Keller built a box on his pickup truck with shelves which held about 600 or 700 books, all of which were purchased from a budget provided from county funds. In addition, many people gave books to the Bookmobile Library.

Conditions were different in Rio Blanco County from those in most places in the state where bookmobiles were operating. Since it would have been difficult if not impossible for some people to get to a central point, Mr. Keller drove the bookmobile four or five miles up some creek to a remote ranch house where he was indeed a welcome visitor, bringing not only books for the family's enjoyment, but news from down the creek or an order of groceries that had been phoned in. Often he was to bring the mail from the rural mailbox at the main road. Messages were also delivered when the telephone line was out.

The bookmobile operated only nine months of the year. It was felt that people were too busy putting up hay and riding the range to be interested in books in the summer months. Patrons said that it was the long winter evenings that invited reading.

The bookmobile covered the county every two weeks on a definite schedule. It was a one-man program, and when its librarian was not on the road his hours were filled with book selection, weeding, and other routine office work. The collection was kept in the county superintendent's office.

Mr. Walter Brown and Mr. Jerome Carroll also served as bookmobile librarians. Rio Blanco County discontinued budgeting the bookmobile operation in 1971 due to rising costs. The book collection was stored for a few years, after which the remaining books were given to the Meeker Public Library.

Monte Vista Carnegie Library

On August 22, 1885 the Woman's Literary Club started a circulating library for the Town of Henry, later to become Monte Vista, with a donation of \$50 worth of books. The collection was housed in the home of Miss Reta Fassett. On September 5 it was reported that 100 additional volumes had been donated to the library and that the collection would undoubtedly number 500 books by fall.

As the library accumulated more books, it was moved to the Bonner Block on Adams Street, in the office of Marvin Meade, where it remained until the fire of 1894. The fire destroyed all the books of the library and the building. The women then set about earning money to build a new building, which became the first new library building.

The first library building was a small stone structure north of the present Carnegie building. It was owned by the Ladies Library Association, Incorporated, and was left in trust, together with an adjoining building, to the Carnegie Public Library.

In 1916 Mrs. Reed and Mr. Robert Breckenridge, the latter manager of the Monte Vista Flour Mills, gave the city the land on Jefferson Street on which the Carnegie Building was constructed. Half of the cost of the new structure was borne by the Carnegie Foundation and half by the city.

In 1920 Mrs. Omie Stephenson, long-time trustee, bequeathed a number of Monte Vista Agricultural and Driving Park Association stock certificates to the library. Money realized from this bequest was re-invested in the Monte Vista Building and Loan Association and subsequently in government bonds. For many years the interest was used to purchase juvenile books for the

library. On December 14, 1956 the investment was cashed in, and a permanent memorial, consisting of several pieces of much needed furniture and equipment, was presented to the library.

Mrs. Dorothy Milne, librarian for many years, had undertaken many special projects to strengthen the position of the library in the community, including children's story hours, adult book review groups, the Victory Book Campaign, a student assistant training program and an evening seminar for men and women.

Through the years many individuals and organizations have been generous in their gifts to the library.

In August of 1974 the Carnegie Public Library Board of Trustees appealed to the Rio Grande County Commissioners for a county mill levy. The rationale for county support was that the library had been serving neighboring rural communities without receiving any compensation. The commissioners put the issue before the voters, and the referendum was approved by 90%. From January 1, 1975 the library's budget has tripled. The city's response to the library's expansion has been generous — to increase the 1.5 mill levy that supported the library during the 1960s to 2.0.

In February 1975 the Carnegie Public Library opened a branch in South Fork, a small community on the western border of the county. In March 1975 the first professional librarian was hired to expand services and programs.

Presently Stephen Maguire serves as librarian. The trustees are Burton Milne, Pat Farish, Marian Wood, Helena Kerr, and Dave Ware.

Information by Stephen Maguire

Montrose County Regional District Library

The Montrose Public Library was set up as a city library December 1, 1914 when the city council officially appointed a library commission. It was stipulated in those early days that an appropriation of not less than \$500 a year be allowed for its operation. Just where the first library was located is not recorded, but in January 1916 the WCTU turned over to the commission its building, located in the 200 block on Main Street. The front room was to be used for a reading room and library, and the WCTU agreed to clean and repair the rooms in the rear, presumably for living quarters for the librarian.

The library was renovated by the commission which authorized Mr. J.R. Weese to give the room "two coats of Alabastine; to varnish 14 chairs; and to give the floor two coats of paint and the woodwork and the iron on the table one coat each". This was done at a cost of \$30, and the high school manual training class built two tables for the cost of the material.

Mrs. Anna L. Christenson acted as librarian for a number of years with high school girls as assistants. The library was open for the circulation of books three afternoons a week and each day as a reading room.

A notation is made in the minutes of a commission meeting that the council was asked for an appropriation of \$700 for the year 1917. About the same time the council was asked to increase the salary of the librarian to \$32 a month as it was no longer possible to get high school girls to work without pay. At this increased salary the librarian was to do all cleaning and janitor work "with the exception of washing the windows".

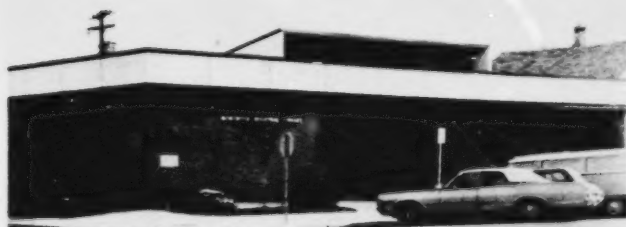
The total number of books circulated in 1916 was 6,320,

and the fines collected during the year amounted to \$20.75. By way of contrast, circulation in 1958 ran about 33,000, and the amount turned back to the city from fines and rentals approximated \$575.

A new city hall and library building was completed and opened in 1927. The Civic Improvement League organized in Montrose in the early 1920s was very active in promoting the erection and furnishing of the library. When the League was dissolved in 1928 the several hundred dollars in the treasury were used to purchase a fine collection of books.

Mrs. Robert Deputy was appointed the first librarian in the new building, and under her direction about 5,000 books were classified and catalogued by the Dewey Decimal System. In January 1928 Mrs. Mary Townsend was appointed librarian, and with the exception of a 4-year hitch in a Navy library during World War II, occupied the position until her retirement in 1962.

In 1962, after a demonstration grant from the Colorado State Library was so successful, the Montrose City Library, in cooperation with school district RE-1J and the County Commissioners, purchased a bookmobile. This extended library service to the rest of Montrose County and to the rural schools. The bookmobile also served the towns and schools in San Miguel County.



Montrose County Regional District Library

In 1967 Mrs. Zerma Kinkel was appointed librarian and the library had grown as large as it could for the quarters it then occupied. The demand for library service had grown steadily because of the increase in population. In 1968, the City Council, County Commissioners, and School Board were persuaded to consider the necessity of a larger tax base to support new library facilities and they agreed to the establishment of the Montrose County Regional Library District and the granting of the 1½ mills allowed by law for the support and maintenance of the library.

Application was made to the Colorado State Library for an LSCA II grant and upon the approval of that grant, construction was started on a new library building which is located across the street from the old City Hall building. The new library was completed and formal opening ceremonies were held in April of 1969.

Between 1969 and 1973, the former town libraries of Olathe, Naturita and Uravan became branch libraries under the control of the Montrose Regional Library and their collections have been up-graded and their service lengthened. Each branch has new A-V equipment and many new programs so that the effort to give the best

service available is a coordinated program in Montrose County.

The Montrose Regional Library, excluding the branch libraries, now contains approximately 35,000 volumes in addition to non-print materials and A-V equipment.

The library has a very active volunteer program for service to the shut-ins and nursing homes in the area, and at the present writing is compiling a human resource file of volunteers and their areas of expertise.

There have been many innovations in library service since the winter day of 1914 when the Public Library in Montrose first opened its doors, and the Montrose Regional Library has kept up with those changes.

Presently Zerma D. Kinkel directs the library. The trustees are Dick Whitney, chairman, Harold Aldrich, Mildred Porter, Carlyle Moore, and Joe Eisaguirre.

Recent history courtesy of
Montrose County Regional District Library

New Castle Garfield County Public Library

The Garfield County Public Library had its beginning in 1937 as a Works Progress Administration project at New Castle, Colorado. When WPA was discontinued, the Garfield County Commissioners financed the library from the county's General Fund.

A library board of four members was appointed and served for several years. It was succeeded by a new board of six members, chosen with the approval of the commissioners from three areas of the county. Eventually the number was lowered to five.

Mrs. Harriett Stewart was the first librarian and was succeeded by Mrs. John W. Hess. Mrs. James Conto then served until 1964 when Virgene Anderson was appointed. The present librarian, Mr. Ronald L. Bausch, was appointed in 1975.

The library was first located in attractive quarters in the New Castle school building, rent-free. Since then a new library has been constructed and has served for many years as the System Area Resource Center for the Three Rivers Library System.

In 1964 the Gordon Cooper Public Library in Carbondale became the first branch of the Garfield County Public Library. In 1969 Glenwood Springs Public Library also became a branch library and the Rifle Public Library joined the county system in 1976. The collection now consists of approximately 60,000 books and has a yearly circulation of 110,000. Special collections have been established on Colorado history, individual oral narrations, education, oil shale, and alternative energy.

The trustees are Dr. Larry Puleo, chairman, Mrs. Darlene Dodo, Mrs. Carter Jackson, and Mrs. James Stevens.

Information courtesy of
Garfield County Public Library

Northglenn Adams County Public Library

In 1953 the dream of a county library became a reality when the Community Chest allocated funds for a bookmobile demonstration. A mobile unit and 5000 books were provided by the Colorado State Library. Mrs.

Nadine Couper became the librarian, driver, mechanic and routemaker for this endeavor and discovered Adams County to be a fertile field for introducing good people to good books. From the mountains to the windswept prairies, she learned every road and trail, either by design or accident, and the people loved the bookmobile and her.

In 1954 the county commissioners granted the first library budget of \$6,000, out of which came the first county-owned mobile unit and books to stock it. The first building was a quonset hut behind Westminster High School. The quonset housed the bookmobile and provided office, work and storage space. The year 1957 found the "Q" hut moved to the Josephine Hodgkins Junior High School, at which time two library assistants were added to the staff.

As the population of the county mushroomed, so did the need for more books, more stops, more work-space and more help. Lines of waiting people met the bookmobile at every stop. Sometimes the librarians thought surely every citizen of Adams County, not to mention dogs, cats and one pet skunk had left footprints on the bookmobile floor.

In 1958 the library moved again, to a room in Thornton City Hall. For the first time the Adams County Library could welcome patrons to its headquarters. Four months later the original room was occupied by the children's and young peoples' section, and the adult collection moved into another room.

On January 1, 1967 Mrs. Lucile H. Wailes was appointed Director of Library Services. By a vote of the county residents the library, as it then existed, was abolished and re-organized as a branch of the county government with a budget based on 1 mill tax levy.

In 1967 a branch was opened in Commerce City. It was also a joint venture, this time with Commerce City. A portion of the new City Hall was paid for by the county with a federal grant. This branch is located at 5291 East 60th Avenue.

On August 25, 1969 a branch was established in rented quarters at Bennett. The library has since built its own building and in the summer of 1974 the new building at 680 Lincoln became the permanent quarters for the Bennett Branch.

A new branch was established at 10530 North Huron. It was completed and occupied in December of 1969. The garden level of this facility houses all support services and the administration office, originally housed at the Perl Mack Reading Center. This branch is called the Northglenn Branch.

On July 1, 1970 the Brighton Library joined the Adams County System. It was operated as the Brighton Branch at its old location until August of 1972, when a new building was completed and occupied at 575 South 8th Avenue in Brighton.

The Thornton Branch operated for many years in the basement of the City Hall. It was moved to a new building at 2211 Eppinger Blvd. in October of 1975. The new Brighton Branch and the new Thornton Branch were financed by Adams County as public works projects.

In June of 1976 the Perl Mack Branch was moved into a new building at 7611 Hilltop Circle. This new building was financed by funds from the library budget and Adams County Public Works.

As of June 1976 the Adams County Library System consists of six branches and Extension Services. Extension

services are provided by three bookmobiles and a shuttle van. Two bookmobiles operate on a regular weekly schedule throughout the county and the third is kept in reserve. The van provides shuttle service to the branches three times weekly.

At the present time the board of trustees members are Ray Paslay, Ann Groff, Marsha Johnson, Steven Dissette, Lesley J. Mathes, and Richard Hadley.

History courtesy of
Adams County Public Library

Nucla Public Library

The Nucla Public Library was born as far back as January 8, 1934 when the Tabeguache Study Club realized that it had to do something about the need for available reading material in this area. The club, organized in June of 1933, was only a few months old at the time.

A committee called for books, new or old, from the community. In March 1934 the library opened in the building which at the present time is a barber shop. There were about five hundred books, mended and catalogued. Flora Daniels was put in charge as librarian.

From this building the books were removed to one purchased for the use of the library by the Study Club. This building, one of the first houses in town, was part of the Jim Christofferson estate and needed repair very badly. With the help of the girls of the Nucla Junior Federation the building was cleaned and repaired to some extent, the books moved in and business resumed until the Tabeguache Study Club decided to build a new building on this site.

It took thirteen years (1934-1947) to raise the funds for the purchase of the site and for the erection of the new structure. It was a real community effort to assist the Study Club in the fund raising which included dance suppers, card parties, food sales, and other money making projects.

With much volunteer help under the direction of James Elmer, assisted by James Kyle, and also by Earl Garber and Earl Chamberlain, the work on the new structure progressed rapidly.

The building is made of light red lava block and white trim. It is fireproof and modern in design.

Mrs. James Kyle deserves much credit for the final work of the library. She was assisted by a library and finance committee and other members of the club.

Many donations were made by the Coal Miners Club, the Club of Friends, and the Nucla Rifle Club. Donations of the Rifle Club were especially appreciated since they provided for the addition of a lavatory and a work room in the rear of the building.

The opening date of the present library was March 26, 1947. For many years the Tabeguache Study Club struggled to maintain the library. Finally, in June 1965, the building and lot were turned over to the town of Nucla.

At present the library is open four days a week, four hours each day. It is a member of the Pathfinder Library System and part of the interlibrary loan system. A summer reading program is conducted for the younger children under the direction of the librarian, Mrs. Tom Barnes, Sr. Besides books, there are motion pictures for the young, talking books and large print books for those who cannot see well.

The hard-working trustees are Bertha Daniels, chairman, Margaret Murphy, and Maria Brown.

Compiled by Margaret Murphy

Olney Springs Public Library

Some time between 1946 and 1958, a ladies' group called the Cactus Club, hired a carpenter to build shelves for books in the tiny business office — about 12x12 — of the Olney Springs Town Hall, then donated books to fill the shelves. This was the beginning of the Olney Springs Public Library. Some time before 1958 the club disbanded and the library was closed. In that year a former high school teacher retired in Kansas, returned to Olney Springs and joined the Lions Club. Seeing the books, he asked the Lions if they would sponsor the library and let him be the librarian. They agreed to do so, and ever since they have provided the librarian with any needed supplies for processing books. The Town of Olney provides space, light, heat, and facilities without charge. Since there are no paid employees, the cost of maintaining and operating the library has been minimal.

The Lower Arkansas Valley Regional Library, through its Bookmobile service lends the library books from its stacks at Las Animas, and there is a set of encyclopedias on permanent loan from the Colorado State Library. Donations from neighboring libraries, Ordway and Fowler, and from private individuals, have built up our stacks to about 1400 volumes, and about one-third of them, we are sorry to say, are not catalogued. Any book we have, however, will be lent on request. There is much to be done to make the library as useful to the community as it ought to be.

The present reading hours of the library are 3:30 to 5:30 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Both the librarian, Mr. Louis Goodrich, and the board of trustees are the members of the Lions Club.

History by Louis Goodrich



Ordway Public Library

Ordway Public Library

Early in the year 1913 the members of the Thursday Afternoon Club, having decided that the town of Ordway needed a public library, set about trying to interest the people in the project. In order to obtain resources, the club sponsored a lecture; a committee was appointed to solicit help from the townspeople, and each club member was asked to contribute at least one book.

A room in the school building was offered as a site for the project, and after the club ladies sorted books, purchased supplies and drew up rules to govern operations, the library room was opened to the public in November 1914. Miss Mae Weldon was the first librarian, serving without pay, and the club members assisted, taking turns alphabetically. The library was well received and greatly enjoyed by the community.

On September 27, 1918 the school was destroyed by fire, and the library was lost. Approximately 500 books were burned, and since there was no insurance, it was a total loss.

After the fire the Thursday Afternoon Club decided to assist the Downey Memorial Library instead of starting an independent program. The Downey Library was located in a room in the Christian Church, and members of the Downey family opened it to the public every Saturday afternoon. On June 7, 1926 the Downey family offered to give the library to Ordway, and the town board passed an ordinance assuming responsibility for its operation. Quarters were provided in the new town hall, and the mayor appointed a six man library board. However, during the next few years progress was slow, for continued years of drought and depression had their effect. In 1938 the first books were obtained from the State Traveling Library, and popular titles were purchased for the pay shelf, which was self-supporting.

On January 15, 1940 a new community building was finished and space was provided for the library, thus giving it at last a home of its own. Mrs. Hattie Purdue was appointed librarian, the first to receive a salary, and the library was open five days each week from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon.

In 1953 the town council levied a tax of a mill and a half for library maintenance. A new board was appointed, new shelves were constructed, and numerous other repair and decorating projects were completed. The amount of financial support received from the town has since been increased, thus making possible a much larger selection of books.

About 1965 the board voted to join the Arkansas Valley Library System, and as a member of this group has enjoyed additional services, such as the privilege of borrowing books from libraries all around that state. The Crowley County board of commissioners each year pays a goodly sum to bring visits from a bookmobile. The facilities of the library are completely free to everyone. On occasion, reading programs are conducted, and also a story hour for the very young children, with refreshments furnished by the board members. The continued support of the town council and the library system has made it possible to install new shelving, to introduce a new filing system, and to maintain a constant supply of new books of every type. The biggest problem at present is a lack of space, and some consideration is being given to ways of obtaining more.

Along with the services, the number of readers has greatly increased, and the library is now larger than at any other time in its history. The present board of trustees has served over a long period of time, but it is to the ladies of the Thursday Afternoon Club that the larger debt is owed; for 33 consecutive years they have maintained a library fund and have given their time and energies to a labor of love.

Mrs. Richard Lozano serves as librarian at the present time. The five trustees are Mrs. H.W. Clapp, chairman,

Mrs. N.D. Zuber, Mrs. T.S. Bailey, Mrs. Clyde Ray, and Mrs. Clyde Grantham.

Compiled by Mrs. H.W. Clapp

Otis Public Library

In the early 1920s, Mrs. C.B. Anderson was instrumental in organizing a library board in the town of Otis, Colorado. The library and town office were housed together in a small room in the back of the Farmer's State Bank building, now the Otis Independent Building. The city treasurer was responsible for the library along with her other duties. The library was financed by donations of money and books and by library card fees.

During the depression years the library board dissolved, and later a fire destroyed all records. (The above information was obtained from the memory of some older residents.)

On December 4, 1972, under the leadership of Mrs. Joy Boltjes, and with the permission of the Otis Town Board, a new library board was organized with the following officers: Rev. Robert L. Miller, Rev. Willis Ickler, Susan McLeland, Joyce Armstrong, Mildred Anderson, and Joy Boltjes. Regular meetings are held quarterly on second Thursday of every fourth month commencing in January. The town treasurer serves as library director and executive and administrative officer of the library. At the present time, the library is housed in the city office building.

The finances of the library are very limited, but through the bookmobile, state appropriations and civic donations the library has adequate books for the people of the community.

It is hoped that in the near future, there will be separate library building and a part time librarian.

Compiled by Mildred Anderson

Ouray Public Library

At the time of the "silver panic" of 1893 many mining camps of Colorado suffered almost instant death and many more were dying. The City of Ouray was spared that fate because of the discovery, by Thomas F. Walsh, of rich gold ore in Imogene Basin—an area already prospected and worked for silver. Mr. Walsh soon became very wealthy and the business from his operation was like a transfusion for Ouray.

In 1900 when the city was making plans for the building of a city hall, Mr. Walsh proposed that a second story be added to house a "Walsh Library" which he would finance and supply with books. Mr. and Mrs. Walsh traveled widely selecting and buying books, including rare and valuable sets.

At the dedication time, Mr. Walsh brought in from Denver a chef and a retinue of helpers to prepare and serve a fine dinner. The governor, the past governor, and other notables from around the state were in attendance.

The only condition that Mr. Walsh imposed when making his gift, was that the city promise to perpetuate the library from that time on.

In January 1950 the city hall was destroyed by fire and the destruction of books was complete.

Like the Phoenix, the Walsh Library has risen from its

ashes and is very much alive and healthy today, occupying about one quarter of the floor space in the present city hall. Books were donated from private collections and purchased with cash donations, and the city annually budgets an amount for the operation of the library and the purchase of books for it.

The board of trustees members are Nathalie Hanhardt, Marjorie Williams, Elizabeth Kuehling, Elaine Van Horn, and George Swift. Joan C. Jindra directs the library at the present time.

History courtesy of
Ouray Public Library



Ovid Public Library

Ovid Public Library

In 1926 the Great Western Sugar Company was completing the Ovid sugar factory, and many new families were moving into town. At this time the forward-looking women of the Ovid Woman's Club, itself a new organization, realized the need for a community library and set about starting one.

Of course, the first need was money. This was raised by a dance which brought them \$103.90, and the raffling of the first sack of sugar from the new mill, which netted \$112.50. So with the grand total of \$216.40, the Ovid Public Library was started in 1927.

The library was first housed in the office of a local lumberyard, later moved to a building owned by the Great Western Sugar Company. Later, by dint of much hard work, many money-making projects, and a lot of self-sacrifice, a new modern brick building was built to house the Woman's Club and the library. This building was dedicated on October 8, 1941, and is still used for the same purposes, and also houses Senior Citizens Center.

There have been many improvements in the building, and even more in the library itself. The first books brought, a set of Book of Knowledge, have been added to until there are now several thousand books. Here can be found books to suit everyone, from the tiniest preschooler who enjoys the picture books, to staid grandmothers and grandfathers, whose preferences may range from a nostalgic "Girl of the Limberlost" to sophisticated technical books.

Through the years there have been many librarians. Some have served for many years, others for shorter periods, but each has stamped a bit of her personality on

the library. At the present time Mrs. Keith Peterson is the very capable librarian.

History by Mrs. Virgil Rose

Pagosa Springs Archuleta County Public Library

The library in Archuleta County, Colorado was first established in 1907, as Pagosa Springs Library. The library was located in the basement of the Methodist Church, and the local women took turns keeping the library open. All the books were donated, and the library was under the control of a group called the Library Association. Then in 1910 the Women's Civic Club was organized and absorbed the Library Association. Through the generosity of Mr. Ed Colton the library was soon housed in the log cabin, one of the landmarks of the early days of Pagosa Springs. As the library grew, the Civic Club realized that the cabin was entirely too small for the library's needs. At that time the town fathers conceded one end of the Town Hall to the library. The library continued to be housed in that facility until the new Town Hall was constructed in 1958. At that time the library was allocated permanent space in the new facility. Finally, in 1967, the public voted to make the Pagosa Springs Library the Archuleta County Library, maintained and controlled by the County Commission. Thus in 1968, the library became a free public library for all the county to use. Since that time the library has grown considerably. It was expanded during the summer of 1976, doubling its space.

Over the years the library was run and operated by public spirited women until 1972 when the library board hired a professionally trained librarian to operate the library. Now under her direction the library has increased its circulation and doubled its holdings. It is with great expectation and high aspirations that the Archuleta County Library enters its 70th year of operation.

History courtesy of
Archuleta County Public Library

Platteville Public Library

The library was started on Oct. 27, 1916, when Mrs. W. A. Thompson organized the Platteville Woman's Club for the purpose of establishing a library. In the beginning, the library consisted of a few book cases which were placed in the Town Hall, with volunteers from the Club serving as librarians.

No donations were asked, but money was earned by bake sales, dinners, and other similar activities. No project was too small to attempt, until little by little, cent by cent, in 1932 a brick building of 955 sq. feet was erected in Lincoln Park at the cost of \$2000. The ladies were \$100 short, but this was borrowed and paid back in less than a year.

The building was fully maintained by the Club until very recently.

In 1959 the library became the first member of the Weld County Library System, and for the first time the librarians were paid a small salary. At that time the volunteer had already worked 30 years without pay.

In 1973, when a great need for more room was felt, an

addition of approximately 850 sq. feet was built for \$33,000 with the help of a federal grant and matching funds from the generous donations from the people of the community.

In 1975 a book circulation of 7,687 served not only this small community but also the surrounding area.

Presently Mrs. Penny Herren serves as librarian. The Board of trustees members are Hazel Briggs, chairman, Mrs. Ellen Herren, Mrs. John Eisenach, Mrs. Raymond Miller, and Mr. Tony Trujillo.

History courtesy of
Platteville Public Library

Pueblo Regional Library District

George Hinsdale, ex-territorial governor, was the first president of a Library Association, formed in Pueblo in 1868.

In the late 1880s a new Library Association was formed and, stimulated by a gift from Pueblo businessman, Andrew McClelland, efforts were made to secure new facilities. On April 10, 1891 the McClelland Library opened in the Board of Trade building, and, at the turn of the century, the time was right for a library in its own building. It was at this time that Andrew Carnegie was establishing libraries and buildings for them in cities throughout the United States.

In 1901 the Monday Evening Club of Pueblo contacted the Carnegie Foundation concerning a library building for Pueblo. In 1902 Carnegie agreed to donate \$60,000 for a library building. Governance of the library was officially opened to the public in January of 1904. Andrew McClelland had added, in addition to the Carnegie money, \$20,000 for books and equipment. Total cost of the new library was \$100,000. It was located on Abriendo Avenue, just in front of the existing Pueblo Regional Library.

Miss Mary L. Strang who was librarian from 1899 to 1937, was given the Colorado Library Association Distinguished Service Award in 1942 for furthering the work of Colorado libraries.

McClelland Library served Pueblo until the present building was dedicated in January of 1966, after a \$750,000 bond issue was approved by the voters in 1963. Since 1969 the Pueblo Regional Library has served all of Pueblo County, with money coming from a two-mill levy on county property.

The Pueblo Regional Library has over 34,000 square feet of space and a collection of 110,000 volumes, compared to the 1,070 volumes in the first library building. The library has two bookmobiles that cover Pueblo County and 24,000 miles annually, with 24 weekly stops. A large addition to the Belmont Branch Library was made possible in 1975 through an LSCA grant.

Presently Mr. Robert W. Roehr directs the library. The trustees are Donald Gaylord, chairman, H. Frank Barkman, Mrs. David Snyder, Mrs. Maurine Jerrell, and Mr. Daniel Martinez.

History courtesy of
Pueblo Regional Library District

Rifle Public Library

The town of Rifle was without a public library for many years after its founding. The Rifle Reading Club, a feder-

ated Women's Club, was founded about 1907, and they established a lending library, mostly popular fiction, which was kept in Mr. A. Glover's jewelry store on Main Street.

In December 1926 the Rifle Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood decided it was time the town had a real library, and they sent an invitation to all the local women's organizations to meet to discuss the question.

The invitation received an enthusiastic response, with all the local women's organizations, eleven of them sending representatives. At this meeting Mrs. Edward T. David, whose husband was state bank examiner, was elected president of the library board. Mrs. David had been active in library work for many years, and had been instrumental in starting libraries in several small towns. It was decided to invite representatives from the men's organizations to the next meeting, and in less than a week another meeting was held with the men seeming as enthusiastically in favor of having a library as the ladies were, in proof of which \$31 in cash was taken in at this meeting.

The first tentative budget estimated that expenses would run between \$700 and \$800 a year. A room was rented, shelves installed, and the library was soon a going concern. In 1928 a mill levy to support the library was passed, doing away with the necessity of asking for donations and giving food sales. However throughout the early minutes one finds a great community response and interest in our library. Because rooms were always rented, frequent moves were necessary until the library finally founds its own quarters in Rifle City Hall when that was built.

The library services were performed entirely by volunteers, with the exception of a few years during the 1930s when a government project paid a salary. At this time Mrs. William Thurston acted as librarian. In 1942 Mrs. Thurston reported on a request that the library board "help Home Defense in any way possible". Later the government assistance was phased out, and the library returned to volunteer librarians.

Minutes of the board meetings were kept until 1950. By this time the work of the board seems to have become routine, and minutes were dispensed with. In the summer of 1975 the town council voted to turn the management of the library over to the County Library System. Most striking in reading of the organization and maintenance of a public library for half a century on such a low budget is the spirit of community interest and cooperation. In the period of fifty years many women have given their time to keep the doors open.

History by Dee Mobley

Rocky Ford Public Library

Early in 1905 the city council of Rocky Ford passed an ordinance creating a library board. The first act of the board was to provide a public lounge in which were placed a few good magazines and a collection of library books.

Miss Opha Lanz was placed in charge of the room during the day, the key being left with a neighboring merchant who locked up at night. Because of the disturbance from saloon patrons nearby, and funds not being sufficient to hire a full-time custodian, the lounge had to be closed.

In 1907 Andrew Carnegie was petitioned for funds to erect a library building. He agreed to donate \$10,000 provided a site and maintenance of \$1,000 a year was pledged by the city council. A one mill levy was voted by the city, and a subscription paper was circulated to raise a fund for the purchase of books. The sum \$3,200 was pledged, but a disastrous bank failure so crippled the finances of some of the subscribers that only \$2,400 was collected.

A strip of land in the city park was donated by the city council as the site for the library building. Crowder and Herring secured the building contract at a bid of \$9,346.50. The architect's fee of \$300 and \$25 for a tiled entrance brought the total cost of construction to \$9,671.50. The balance of the Carnegie grant, amounting to \$328.50, went toward the purchase of furniture. The builders failed to fulfill their contract, and their bondsman, Mr. T.H. Foley, very satisfactorily completed the building.

When the library was opened in June 1909, there were 1,800 volumes on the shelves. Through the years, the collection has grown to about 17,000 volumes.

Half a century after the Carnegie structure was built, the library began having problems because of its growth. In February 1976, after years of planning and dedication by many people in the Rocky Ford community, a new library building across the park from the old one was opened and dedicated.



Rocky Ford Public Libr

The new Rocky Ford Public Library is more than twice the size of the old one with 5,000 square feet of work and study space. The new structure boasts over 600 shelves. Designed by John Hurtig, the modernistic structure is capable of adapting to solar heating, one of the reasons for its unique look and broad slanting roofs. Carpeted throughout, with the exception of the main entry area and public restrooms, the new library was built by Houston Construction, a Pueblo firm, at a cost of \$150,000.

At the present time Ms. Andrith Davis serves as librarian, and the board of trustees members are Martha Babcock, chairman, Zolus Motley, Robert Morrison, Nancy Martin, and Robert Nelson.

History by Nancy Martin

Saguache County Public Libraries

Early attempts, the first in 1901, to start a library in Center ended in failure. In 1927 a building was erected,

but the depression years made it impossible to keep up payments. The building was taken over by the American Legion, and the books were given to the Center School library.

In 1949, again, clubs and interested citizens began working together to try to get a county public library started. Since the county was large and there were two larger towns within the county, it was determined that there would have to be two libraries in order to serve all of the residents of the county.

In June 1950, after much planning and many meetings with the county commissioners, the Saguache County Library was set up under the sponsorship of the Tri C Club of Center. The commissioners appointed a library board consisting of five members, chosen from different areas of the county. The county superintendent of schools served as an advisory member. Funds were allowed from tax monies, and for the next three years an amount of \$4,000 was appropriated for the Center and Saguache branches of the library, each receiving \$2,000.

The Center Branch opened on June 17, 1950 in the Center Community Building. The library in Saguache was housed at the high school, but was moved from the high school to a downtown location in the fall of 1952. In spring of 1963 it was moved into the new Dr. I.L. Gotthelf Memorial Library Building, donated by Mrs. I.L. Gotthelf in memory of her late husband. The library in Center remained in the Center Community Building until January 1974 when it moved into the new location which is an addition to the Community Building.

The two libraries combined have a total of about 19,000 volumes. Both libraries have record collections as well as slide and filmstrip and 8 and 16mm projectors to loan to the patrons. At the present time a bookmobile is being prepared for service to the outlying towns and communities of Saguache County.

Information by Voleta Asay and
George Crowley

Salida Public Library

In Salida, Colorado, during September 1894, a group of eleven of the foremost pioneer women met to organize the Tuesday Evening Club of Salida. This club had among its cultural objectives the founding of a public library for the use of all who cared to avail themselves of constructive reading and self-improvement.

The few books purchased during the first year from club dues were kept in a small room in the Central School building on some shelves donated for that purpose.

In 1896 a small room on West Second Street, near the old Opera House, was secured to accommodate the growing collection.

In 1898 the library was moved into a small one-story brick building at the corner of "F" and Third Streets, and then later to a large second story room of the City Hall Building where the town council met and the police judge also held court. During these early days the members of the Tuesday Evening Club sponsored numerous benefits in order to raise money for the purchase of books, and, except when the books were at Central School, they took turns serving as librarian and doing the janitor work.

There was no Salida citizen who was a more staunch supporter of the Public Library movement than Colonel William Penn Harbottle, a Civil War veteran and a

much-respected, public-spirited citizen. Upon his death in early 1906 it was learned that he had willed his personal library and his home at 546 "G" Street to the Salida Library Association for the establishment of a Reference Library to be known as "The Juliana Reference Library" as a memorial to his mother. His will provided that the "Juliana Library" would be a noncirculating library wherever it might be housed.

This generous gift provided the necessary impetus for the campaign instituted by the ladies of the Tuesday Evening Club with the help of civic minded residents to establish a permanent library building.



Salida Public Library

Mrs. Mary C. Ridgeway, first president of the club, and her husband Carl Ridgeway of Rio Grande and Rock Island Railroad fame, gave \$1200 with which to purchase the site for a library building.

Successful negotiations were made with Mr. Andrew Carnegie, whereupon he agreed to furnish \$9,000 toward the building of a public library in Salida. The community was to contribute \$6,000.

The members of the Tuesday Evening Club with the help of other concerned residents spearheaded the drive for funds.

The cornerstone of the library was laid in May, 1908, and the building was completed early the next year at a cost of \$15,000.

The building included a separate room for the housing of the "Juliana Reference Library" and an "Assembly Hall" in the basement of the building to be leased to the Tuesday Evening Club.

Dedication of the Salida Public Library took place in February 1909, at which time Mrs. Florence Lippard, then President of the Tuesday Evening Club, formally and in behalf of the Club presented the library to the City of Salida.

Only six librarians have been in charge since 1909. Mrs. Nettie K. Gravett assumed her duties as the first paid librarian on March 1, 1909, and served until December 31, 1910. Her salary was \$40 per month.

On January 1, 1911 she was succeeded by Mrs. Helen M. Cook, who served as librarian twelve years.

Mrs. Montie M. Fesenbeck was appointed librarian on January 1, 1923, and served one year.

Then on January 1, 1924 Miss Ida Frisch — later to become Mrs. Neddermann — assumed the position and served until her retirement in 1960 — a total of 36 years.

Mrs. Catherine Latimer, now Mrs. Lloyd Sheldon, became librarian in the fall of 1960 and served until her retirement in November, 1966.

The present librarian, Mrs. Norma Edlund, began her work at the library in January, 1967.

It was in November 1974 that the voters approved the formation of the Southern Chaffee County Regional Library District. This will result in a broader tax base beginning in 1976 and thus provide more operational funds. The library will then be known as the Salida Regional Library.

The original Carnegie building is still in use on the corner of 4th and "E" Streets, even though the services to the city of Salida and the surrounding area have increased through the years.

The trustees of the Salida Public Library are Mr. John Ophus, chairman, Mr. Kenneth Englert, Mrs. Helen Hoover, Mr. Betty Blackwell, and Mr. Fredrick D. Cupelli.

History by Norma L. Edlund

San Luis Costilla County Library

The Costilla County Library was established on September 1, 1972. County Commissioners Sam Gonzales, Ruben Pacheco, and Frank Valdez met with representatives from the Colorado State Library, after which Costilla County was given a grant to start a County Library.

The County Commissioners then appointed five members from the community to serve on the first library board of trustees: Jerry Sanchez, Manuelita Atencio, Florence Taylor, Sam Gonzales, and Cosme Sanchez Jr.

Library was started with approximately 2,000 volumes, most of which were donated by the Colorado State Library and other libraries in the San Luis Valley. Two employees were hired to set up the books and circulation system — Yvonne Romero, librarian, and Margaret Royball, assistant; both were trained by Colorado State Library representative Evelyn Brewster. Thus in 1973 San Luis, Colorado contributed to the greatest assets for the residents of Costilla County, a county library.

Circulation in the first few months was approximately 200 books per month, and it now averages 1,500.

Costilla County Library is the first library in the San Luis Valley and in the Southwest Public Library System to have a bookmobile, a Spanish book collection for adults, a Southwest Chicano collection, and an oral history collection.

History by Yvonne Romero

Security Public Library

In 1959 several interested citizen groups of the unincorporated community of Security, Colorado began discussions with various governmental bodies to secure library service for this rapidly growing suburban area. These approaches bore no fruit. Eventually the *ad hoc* library committee was informed by the Colorado State Library of an obscure provision of the Colorado school laws in which school districts were empowered to establish public libraries to give service to all residents of the school district.



Security Public Library

Three spokeswomen approached the board of directors of the Widefield School District for authorization of such a library. It was granted. Funding of 1/10th of 1 mill, as then provided in the statute, was approved by the school board in 1960 for the Security Public Library. Donations of books and other printed materials poured in from local residents and clubs and from generous citizens of the nearby city of Colorado Springs. These books were winnowed and then catalogued by members of the *ad hoc* committee, with the friendly assistance and advice of the Colorado State Library. Proceeds from sale of discarded donations were used to augment the pitifully small children's collection.

With makeshift furnishings, donated supplies, and an all-volunteer staff, the Security Public Library initially opened its doors to patron use in the basement of an elementary school, moved thence to the ground floor of the school administration building, and in 1966 occupied its present hill-top site, both floors of the north wing of the Security Park and Recreation building overlooking the community.

From exceedingly modest beginnings, the Security Public Library has grown into a modern facility with fully professional staff and collections of reference works, books, pamphlets, periodicals, and phonograph records available to serve patrons, offering such diverse programs as children's story hours, films, puppet plays, and Great Books discussion groups.

The present trustees are Mrs. Lorraine Collier, chairman, Mrs. Elinor Benjamin, Mrs. Rebecca Poole, Mr. James Junglen, and Mr. Edward Shive.

History by Shirley L. Roberts

Sedgwick Public Library

In 1886 pioneers from the various religious denominations of the Sedgwick community managed to get some old song books from a missionary-minded Presbyterian Church at Seneca Falls, New York. They were calvary songs and a smaller book with children's hymns. The books were sent in two apple barrels, one of which contained library books. This seems to have been the beginning of the Sedgwick Public Library.

At first the books were kept in the freight room of the depot, but after the Sedgwick school house was built in 1887, the meeting hall was moved to the new school and the books were also moved with it. One winter, soon after, tramps broke into the school and burned the books for fuel.

In 1929 a community library was again started by the newly organized Sedgwick Woman's Club. Mrs. Edna

McCormick, who was post-mistress at the time, offered a room in her home to serve as a library. Her home also served as the post office.

A canvass among neighbors and friends resulted in a collection of 500 books which were put into public circulation. Donations and the purchase of some new books trebled the collection in a few years, and the library moved to a larger building. The club members acted as librarians until the National Youth Administration organized its library project in the county. Miss Marguerite Norris received training in Sterling under the NYA and became the first paid librarian. Much was done to standardize the library through help given by the Sterling Public Library.

In 1945 the Woman's Club members canvassed the community to raise money for another building as the book collection had again outgrown its quarters. In a short time \$800 was raised and a building purchased. Donations of equipment, furniture and time were received and the new quarters established. Club members were again acting as librarians.

In 1950 the Town Board agreed to take over the library building and responsibility for its maintenance, but the Woman's Club still sponsored the library as its main project and raised money for new books, expenses, and a salary for librarians when one could be found. Mrs. Clarence Smith and Mrs. Erwin Schulz served in this capacity for several years during the 1950-1960 period. Book loans from the Colorado State Library helped in supplying newer books, and circulation figures increased. The book collection numbered over 5,900 volumes. Duplicate books were donated to the Anherst Library to help stock its shelves.

In 1962 the library became city ruled, and a library board was formed. Later this board applied for membership as a legally established library. In the late 1960s a newer building was purchased and the library became a member of the newly formed High-Plains Public Library System. This was a big step forward and under the Library System guidance services increased in both quantity and quality. Book collections are maintained at about 6000 volumes and circulation was 13,596 for 1975. Mrs. Orville Fredricks was librarian in the early 1970s until Mrs. Neta Olson took her place. The Woman's Club is now no longer able to support the library as it did in years past. However the ladies still serve as historians and they hostess library teas and programs.

The Town Board and the community have taken up where the Women's Club left off and the library in Sedgwick continues to grow.

History by Mrs. D.H. Parker, Sr.
and Mrs. Daisy Sitton

Neta Olson is the present librarian. The trustees are Lucille Price, chairman, Mrs. D.H. Parker, Sr., Mr. Howard Jonte, Mr. Bill Saunder, Mrs. Lois McClary, Mrs. Daisy Sitton, Mrs. Delma Kinoshita, and Mr. Ed Smith.

Silverton Public Library

Silverton, located deep in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, is now the only population center in San Juan County which has been a famous hard-rock mining region since the 1870s. Mining is still the major industry in the county, although summer tourism is constantly increasing in volume. Silverton is the desti-

nation of the narrow gauge train which departs daily from Durango from May through September.

The present Silverton Public Library was established by city ordinance in April 1905. Funding for construction of the library building, a total of \$10,000 was provided by Andrew Carnegie. Local legend has it that in 1904 Silverton dispatched a messenger to meet Carnegie when his train stopped in Grand Junction. The messenger extolled the many virtues of Silverton but emphasized the city's need for a free, lending library larger than the present 400 volume collection housed in rented quarters on 12th Street. Evidently Mr. Carnegie was favorably impressed since by February 1905 he had made a firm offer to donate \$10,000 toward the cost of a new building.

In accordance with the agreement with Carnegie, the Silverton Town Board appropriated \$1,250 for the maintenance of the library and agreed to provide a suitable site. This property, purchased from John Wingate in May 1905 for \$1,000, is located on Reese Street between 11th and 12th and is still the site of the Silverton Public Library which is housed in the original Carnegie Building.

When the library committee advertised for bids on constructing the building, none of the local contractors responded; consequently the contract was let to Thomas Edwards of Durango in August 1905 with the stipulation that the building be completed by January 1906. Working 7 days a week, Edwards and crew completed the basic structure by October 1905. The book collection was moved from the 12th Street location and a number of books formerly housed in the Miners Union Hall Library and in the private libraries of various fraternal organizations were added to the public library's collection.



Silverton Public Library

In addition to reading and reference facilities and a children's room upstairs, the new building offered a men's club room in the basement. In November 1905 Mr. A. Klinger, father of the owners of the Silverton Standard, supervised a tree planting on the library lawn. And in January 1906 the Silverton Standard offered the opinion that "there is no one thing that contributes more to the general tone and uplift of a community than a well-sustained and well-conducted library." (Silverton Standard, Jan. 6, 1906)

Although more than 70 years have passed and the city's population has dropped from 3300 to 800, the Silverton Public Library continues to serve the people of

San Juan County. The building remains essentially unchanged. The men's club room fell into disuse and for years was used as a storage area. The basement has now been completely repainted and plans call for converting the area to an official archives for historic documents from San Juan County. In 1973 and 1974 the upstairs lighting was changed to fluorescent fixtures and the chairs were reupholstered and the table tops replaced, but the interior furnishings still consist almost entirely of the original equipment installed in 1905. In the fall of 1975 the upstairs interior was repainted and the pine floors completely refinished. During 1975 the entire book collection was catalogued in up-to-date fashion. The purchase of a microfilm reader-printer and a complete set of local newspapers on microfilm from 1879 through the present has further enhanced the library's value as a reference center for those interested in local history.

History by Irene Epp

Springfield Baca County Library

In 1925 a group of women in Springfield collected donations of books and started a public library. New materials were purchased with funds raised by food sales, home talent plays and style shows. Volunteer workers kept the library open for a number of years until in 1938 a county library measure was placed on the general election ballot. The measure passed, and since that time the library has operated on an annual budget provided by the county. One of the prime movers in the establishment of the library was Mrs. Sylvia P. Carroll who later became county superintendent of Gunnison County.

The county library operates branches at Pritchett, Two Buttes, and Walsh. The unit at Walsh was started in 1929 by the Women's Civic Club, the county and city working together.

The Two Buttes branch began when Dr. W.P. Verity, beloved physician, donated his private collection to the community. After the doctor's death the library was moved into his office which was remodeled and redecorated by the PTA. It was staffed by volunteers until it became a branch of the Baca County Library. Mrs. Mary Lucas was the first paid librarian.

The Pritchett branch was established in 1947 through the efforts of the Home Demonstration Club as an independent library unit and later became a part of the county system.

The Baca County Library worked closely with the Lower Arkansas Valley Library Demonstration.

In 1965 the Board of County Commissioners constructed a building on the southwest corner of the Court Yard for the offices of County Extension Agent, Public Welfare and Public Health Nurse. The basement of this building was designated to be used for the Baca County Library. It provides ample space for the stacks, as well as a room with tables to be used by those doing reference work. Since 1965 the floors have been carpeted and air conditioning has been installed.

At the present time the library circulation is still increasing. Each summer the library in Springfield as well as the branches have had a story hour each week with a good attendance.

The trustees feel that they are fortunate to have as head librarian Miss Laura Parsley who served in this capacity for many years. At our branch libraries too the women who have served have been very dedicated. Miss Parsley has also given much of her time to the assistance of school children in securing information needed in their work.

It is also known that the Baca County Board of Commissioners have been very liberal through the years in providing funds in order that the citizens of our county have the best possible library service.

The trustees are Laura Bosley, chairman, Grace McKinnis, Dessie Morrison, Grace Robson, and Marjorie Brinkley.

History courtesy of
Baca County Library



Bud Werner Memorial Library

Steamboat Springs Bud Werner Memorial Library

The first library in Steamboat Springs was the William Dennison Memorial Library in the Union Church Building. It was started in 1887 after the death of its benefactor and housed 1,000 volumes that helped enrich the lives of the people in the faraway community. For ten years, people in the valley made almost daily use of the library. In 1899, because of a need for school rooms, the books were removed to a recently built frame schoolhouse and a second grade class put in the church. A devastating fire in 1910 destroyed the two story schoolhouse and all but 400 volumes of the book collection went up in flame. For five years the community was without a library. In May of 1915 the Civic League sponsored and established a reading room in a building on Lincoln Avenue.

World War Two again forced the closing of the reading room as people were too busy to use or man it. In 1924 the PEO and Women's Club led the community in the re-establishment of a public library. Mrs. F.L. Colley was appointed librarian, a post she held until she retired in the early 1960s. By 1930 there were 4,650 volumes on the shelves.

On February 4, 1967 the skiing greats of the world gathered in a beautiful new structure at the west end of Lincoln Avenue to pay a final tribute to Wallace "Bud" Werner. On that day a building, soaring in its architecture to match the dreams of the young man whose name is permanently affixed above its door, was opened.

Through the dedication of many people, the sum of

\$70,000 was raised and the Bud Werner Memorial Library building was paid in full. In 1967 there were 4,700 volumes in the collection, and today there are 14,000.

In 1971 the town-supported library was designated a district library. This gave the library a wider tax base from which to draw funds for its maintenance, acquisitions and expansion.

The board of trustees members are Mike Holloran, chairman, Macpherson Raymond, Beulah Studer, William Balden, and Carla Nash.

History courtesy of
Bud Werner Memorial Library

Sterling Public Library

The Zeta Zeta Club was mainly responsible for the founding of the Sterling Public Library. Members began working toward this goal in November 1910. A committee of club women appeared before the city council in October 1912 to discuss plans for a library. Money was raised for the project by private and public subscriptions. The Zeta Zeta Club and the WCTU contributed \$1,000 toward the purchase of the land, and the Carnegie Foundation donated \$12,500 for the building.

The library opened on April 12, 1918 with 2,000 books in the collection. The first librarian was Katherine Marvin. For many years the juvenile and adult collections were housed on the main floor of the building. In March 1930 the basement was converted into a separate Children's Department, the space having been used formerly for club meetings, lectures, demonstrations, and story hours.

The Logan County Library, established in 1937, was combined with the Sterling Public Library in 1953. The county commissioners agreed to a yearly payment to the Sterling Library with the provision that all county residents be allowed to use its facilities free of charge. This arrangement is still in effect now, making the total population served by the library about 20,000.

In 1930 a collection of dolls was started — the first three dolls a pair of Dutch twins and a Scots lassie — were brought from Europe by Seiberta Conklin and Mrs. W.S. Hadfield. Dolls have been contributed throughout the years and today there are about 50 dolls in the collection.

In 1952 Dr. M. Madeline Ververka, editor of the Laidlaw Basic Readers Series, bequeathed a sizeable sum to the library for the purchase of books dealing with Czechoslovakia, her birthplace. In 1955 Allen Biggerstaff gave the library \$5,000 for the replacement of badly worn or out-dated non-fiction.

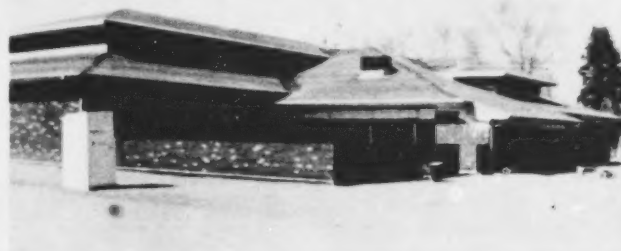
The most recent gifts to the library are the Otto Unfug Collection and the T.M. Rogers Collection, both to be housed in the new Western History Room.

The library continues to receive many books presented by individuals, patrons, and local organizations as memorials or gifts.

The present collection consists of 33,000 books, 501 volumes of back issues of periodicals, 51 current periodical subscriptions, 900 film strips, 400 phonodiscs, and cassettes. The library uses the bookmobile service of the Northeast Colorado Regional library and is a member of the High Plains Public Library System which affords such services as films, framed prints, special exhibits, and the use of the System Area Reference Center for the use of the patrons.

A new public library building is currently under con-

struction on land purchased by the city of Sterling. Construction was started in October 1975 and was completed by July 1976.



Sterling Public Library — from the southeast.

The new building, in addition to greatly expanded space for both the adult and children's collections, provides a reading area, a public meeting room and a western history room. The latter is to house books presented to the library from private collections and resource material including newspapers, maps, documents and local family histories from the Logan County Historical Society, formerly housed in the Overland Trail Museum.

History courtesy of
Sterling Public Library

Swink Public Library

In 1916 a committee from the Swink Woman's Club approached the City Council and asked that the Council set apart a room in the New City Hall, built in 1915, for the purpose of a library. The Council was happy to grant the request. Books and money were solicited. Mr. T.T. Woodruff of La Junta, often called "The Father of Libraries", contributed 100 books and valuable advice for the novices in library work.

Eva Franklin was the first librarian. The Town of Swink and the Holly Sugar Corporation paid the services of the librarian during factory campaigns.

During the years the library board members raised funds for the purchase of new books and periodicals by such efforts as tag days and teas. In recent years the board also held game parties to raise funds. The annual Bingo party was particularly successful. In 1963 the library became eligible for a state grant.

Due to the state grant and revenue sharing funds given to the library by the Town of Swink, the library, which now consists of two rooms, was redecorated. New shelves, a record player, records, a book cart, a new clock, and a new adding machine were purchased.

Since 1963, when the population was approximately 300 — now it is over 600 — between two and three hundred books were checked out per month. The library is open three afternoons a week from two-thirty to five o'clock.

Mrs. Cathern Meigs is the present librarian. The trustees are Virginia Durbin, chairman, Warren Hadley, Catherine Hathaway, Ralph Kinagy, and Carolyn Rightmyer.

History by Cathern Meigs



An artist's rendering of an old jail building which later became the Library.

Telluride San Miguel Public Library District No. 1

In March 1972 an interested group of citizens in the town of Telluride began planning for a public library, since none was in existence in the entire San Miguel County. Temporary housing was obtained from the fire department who owned an old quonset hut, and volunteers worked hard to refurbish the room and to obtain bulk book loans via the Pathfinder System so that circulation could begin immediately to town people. A library became a reality.

At the same time the search for a permanent site continued, and in May 1972 the Town of Telluride Trustees voted unanimously to "give the use of their Old Stone Jail for a public library and to permit restoration of same".

Application was made to the State Historical Society and the National Park Service for funds to help with the exterior restoration work. Likewise plans began for admission to the local library system. In October 1973 a petition was circulated among taxpaying electorate of that part of San Miguel County co-terminus with the Telluride R1 School District requesting the Board of County Commissioners to create a public library district. It was the decision of this body to place the issue on the November 1974 ballot. The voters overwhelmingly chose to create a public library district which the Board of County Commissioners duly established on January 6, 1975.

Money for the restoration on the Old Stone Jail became available in late 1975, and part of the 1976 budget provided funding to do interior alterations with the hope that occupancy could begin in late 1976. Revenue sharing funds and state grant money enabled the library to provide services to the entire county. Special programs for children, materials for older citizens, and a growing collection of books suited to the changing community have resulted in tremendous patron response and support.

History by Mrs. Elizabeth Wilkinson

Trinidad Carnegie Public Library

In September 1882 a meeting was held, led by the local clergy, to organize and establish a public library in Trinidad. A collection resulted in \$400 in cash and pledges amounted from \$700 to \$1,000. The Rev. Darley

donated 600 books. The first location was one room in the James M. John Building. The library did not have a name, but signs were posted in front of the building telling what the room was for. At that time the first board of trustees was formed, and the first librarian, Mr. Richmond, hired.

In 1886 the Ladies Library Association was formed, after men refused to serve on the library board. The ladies worked hard to keep the library operating. After many years of struggle the Woman's Club considered transferring the library to the city. The transfer became reality on March 14, 1901.

Today the library is known as Carnegie Public Library. It is a sturdy structure of native stone that occupies the corner of Church and Animas streets. The building was completed and opened to the public on September 15, 1904. The stained glass of the upper windows, and the solid oak woodwork of the interior are reminiscent of an era past.

Trinidad was one of the American cities of that period that shared the benefaction of Andrew Carnegie. It was his donation for most of the cost of the building plus the guarantee by the city for the upkeep that resulted in the present library.

Thomas A. Winsor served as librarian from about 1886. He was succeeded in 1910 by A.J. Floyd who served until his death in 1935. Ruth A. Justin took over at that time, and remained until 1959. Edna Atwood is the present librarian, having taken the position following the death of Ruth Justin. In the seventy-two years there have been only four librarians. The staff consists of the librarian, two assistants, and one part time worker.

At the present the library is supported by a 1.5 mill levy from the city, plus a yearly donation from Las Animas County. It is mainly a city library, but serves any patron in the county wishing to take advantage of the services. It is a member of the Arkansas Valley Library System.

The library has 29,551 volumes which fill the shelves to capacity and make constant weeding necessary.

Through the years the library has been a community focal point for many activities. Close contact has been established with clubs, organizations, and schools of the city.

The children's department is a popular place for youngsters of all ages. Story-hours and Summer Reading Clubs are enjoyed by large groups.

The adult department has a very good circulation, and much reference work is done also. A special effort has been made to collect material of local historical interest.

A reader-printer was acquired with Model Cities funds, and a file of the local newspaper, the *Chronicle-News*, back to 1899 on micro-film is a great help for the researcher on Trinidad history.

There is a five member board of trustees which has carefully supervised funds and the general up-keep of the building. One past member, now deceased, was especially interested in the grounds and donated a rose garden.

The five members of the board of trustees are: O.F. Adams, Roy F. Boyd, Madolin Haxby, Bernard Gonzales, and Frances Samaniego.

History courtesy of
Carnegie Public Library, Trinidad

Vail Public Library

The Vail Public Library opened its doors to the public

on March 20, 1972. A collection of 2,500 books, largely donated by Vail citizens, was available to its first patrons.

The library occupies one large room, 1,677 square feet, on the ground floor of the Town of Vail's Municipal Building.

Initial efforts at organizing the library were made by Annette Milliron, Vail's first librarian.

In July 1973, Charlyn Costello took over the responsibility for the library. Contributions of books continued to inundate the staff, and a weeding and cataloguing drive was launched on the materials.

A collection of 5,000 paperback volumes was established to be circulated on the honor system. These books provide reading material for Vail's visitors and those not eligible for a library card.

Six thousand of the 10,000 hard back books were catalogued in the next two years. It is hoped that the remaining 4,000 will be completely catalogued by the spring of 1977.

A full range of library activities is now offered to the patrons: story hours, book discussion groups, movies, guest lectures, holiday parties, pet care, bicycle safety and babysitting clinics.

The Friends of the Library was organized October 1974.

History by Charlyn Costello

Walden Jackson County Library

The Jackson County Public Library had its origin as a North Park Woman's Club project back in the early nineteen-thirties. For quite a few years the books were kept at the county courthouse, first in the county judge's office and then in the office of the county superintendent of schools. The first books were donated, and a small sum of money was spent for new books.

During World War II interest in the library waned. But in 1951 the Woman's Club once more took the library as a project.

A beautiful new church had been built, and a room was given rent free for quarters for the library. Books were moved from the courthouse, and members of the club served as volunteer librarians. Each month the club bought books. The library was open two hours a week.

In 1954 the Woman's Club called upon the State Library for help. Then State Librarian Mr. Gordon Bennett and Mrs. Cynthia Willett came to Walden on many occasions to assist with organizing the collection. They also gave instructions in cataloguing, weeding, purchasing, and in general maintenance. They called the little room at the church the "large closet".

Talk between the Woman's Club and the County Commissioners began as the club prevailed upon the county to accept the library as a county responsibility. September 23, 1954 the North Park Woman's Club Library became the Jackson County Public Library. In January 1955 a paid librarian was hired and the library was open 10 hours a week. The Woman's Club continued their support with most of the money going for books.

Before long the small room at the church was outgrown. The county purchased a small building on Main Street. Once again the Woman's Club moved the books.

The building was to be the home of the Jackson County Library for the next 18 years. Remodeling was done in 1961, and a room was added in 1963. Most of these years

the library was funded by the County General Fund, state grants, and the North Park Woman's Club. A tax for library support was levied in 1970.

Plans for a new or enlarged building began to boil in 1974. There was great community support, and in March 1976 the move was made to a brand-new building. The North Park Woman's Club bought the furnishings while memorial funds and individual gifts bought shelving, floor coverings, and other equipment. The new library is now an ALL community project with the service clubs, individuals, and the county working to make this the finest small library possible. It is beautiful both inside and out, and the small community of North Park — population 1800 — is indeed very proud of it.



Jackson County Library

Over the past years four women have served as county librarians. Mrs. Gilbert Thompson was the first, followed by Mrs. Dorothy Howard, Mrs. Doris Hamburg, and Mrs. Eileen Lepponen who has been librarian since 1961. Mrs. Lepponen worked also with the library as a Woman's Club volunteer in the nineteen-fifties.

Members of the library board are Jonita Mallon, president, Katherine Goemmel, William Porterfield, Chris Furneaux, and Eunice Hoover. Mrs. Hoover has been a member of the library board since 1954.

History courtesy of
Jackson County Library

Walsenburg Huerfano County Public Library

In 1896 the Saturday Club was organized with 15 members. The Club saw the need for a library in Walsenburg and established one in 1906. Funds used to purchase the first books were obtained by giving teas, bake sales, concerts and other entertainments. Many books were donated. These were first kept in Cowing's Grocery store, which is now the Star Grocery and Market, later in a vault in the Court House and thereafter in a room near the south door of the Court House. Each member took her turn keeping the library open for three hours on two afternoons of each week. Eventually the City and County assumed part of the operating expenses. In 1927 the books were again moved to the small Masonic building on Main Street which is now the law office of Judge Barron. Some time before this date the library was open for three hours every day except Sunday.

A "Tag Day" drive once a year was instituted for additional funds for books, and it became for many years

an annual affair to which the public donated generously.

In 1953 the Woman's Civic League offered their assistance and joined the Woman's Club for a bigger, better library. The books had steadily increased and larger quarters were needed. This time the move was to the basement of the Elks Home. In 1949 the Elks needed their basement so another move was made to the C.O.D. Building on East 6th Street across from the Hotel Kirkpatrick. For several years the library board members had been working on a plan to have a new library built. Finally in the summer of 1952, with the help of County funds, the new building was erected at 323 Main Street and is known as the Huerfano County Public Library. The land was donated by the late Marian Pritchard, a former resident of Walsenburg. In September of that year the books were moved in along with several items of furniture, lamps, pictures, and memorial books donated by friends and organizations of Walsenburg.

In 1953 the library went on a full-day schedule. Later it was necessary to open one night a week. One room in the basement was fixed up as a study room and is also used as a meeting room during library hours. Grass was planted and members of the sponsoring clubs made a rock garden and planted flowers.

In 1957 the Junior Woman's Club decorated and furnished a room in the basement for children's activities.

The library became a member of the Arkansas Valley Public Library System in 1967.

In the past few years the library was repainted, carpeted throughout, and a Microfilm reader-printer was purchased.

The book collection has been built up extensively, especially the children's and Southwest collections.

Frances King has been librarian since 1965 when Mrs. Cora Mockmore retired. The trustees are Doris Conder, Marianne Mauro, Josephine Kopine, Dorothy Schafer, Mary Fisk and Connie Kowal.

History courtesy of
Huerfano County Public Library

Ward Public Library

The Ward Public Library started in January 1974 in a 12' x 10' cabin with a privately donated collection of approximately 800 high-quality books. By the end of 1974, with the enthusiastic help of the local mountain residents, the library moved to a larger building and increased its volumes to 2,160. 1975 was a year of construction and renovation. With the installation of a new heating system the library was able to expand its services to year-round and to increase the library hours. The building of a special children's section, a loft, a reference and map table, a librarian's desk and work area, and hand-built shelves throughout the library increased the shelving footage to 541 feet which hold more than 4,500 volumes.

The library has started and sponsored a film series, poetry readings — including local as well as better known writers — a drawing class, a children's reading hour, and a bicentennial show.

Located at a junction of the somewhat isolated mountain communities in Boulder County, the library has met with a real kind of enthusiasm that has allowed it to grow in volume and service. All of the books are donations, and most of the help is done by volunteers.

Gregory Tebrich serves as librarian. The trustees are

Christine Hanson, Kathy Roth, Shary Allred, Norman Bowers, Darryl Stafford and Mary Folsom.

Compiled by Greg Tebrich

Westcliffe Custer County Library

Custer County Library was started in 1930 by Mrs. Lou C. Beaman, County Superintendent of Schools, in a small room adjoining her office in the newly constructed County Courthouse. She was assisted by the Custer County Teachers' Association, and she served as a volunteer librarian together with a board of eight trustees.

In 1939 the limited collection of books was moved into the "Little Tower Room" of the Courthouse and a salaried librarian was hired by the WPA and the library became part of the state-wide library project.

In 1944 the library was moved from the Courthouse to a building in the downtown area which had been donated to the community by Mrs. C.M. Tinkham, to be used as a Community Center, with the specification that the library was also to be housed in it. The collection of books at that time numbered approximately 1946 volumes, the original collection having been augmented by the purchase of 700 volumes from the Army Air Base at La Junta. The work of cataloging the collection was done by volunteer assistants.

In 1949 the first tax money for support of the library was made available by the County Commissioners. The funds were quite limited but made it possible to pay a librarian a fixed salary.

The library is still housed in this building. It is presently supported by an annual payment from county funds, a small annual amount from the state, from time to time by small donations from private citizens and occasional donations from other interested persons. Since 1970 funds have been increased by a percentage of sales from the Art and Handicrafts Show held each summer, designated as a benefit for the library. These auxiliary funds have recently enabled the library to expand shelf space.

Mrs. Ruby Paxton is presently librarian, having served capably in that capacity since 1947. For some years the library has been a member of the Arkansas Valley Library System, and this has been a tremendous advantage, enabling the library to borrow books from the Pueblo Regional Library which with limited funds and space would be impossible to add to the permanent collection. The present permanent collection is about 3,800 volumes.

Mrs. John O. Kraehenbuehl, who provided this history, is the chairman of the board of trustees. The other members are Ruby Paxton, Ruth Lange, Mrs. H.W. Rusk, Mrs. Dan Riggs, Mrs. Lige Manning, and Mrs. Rebecca Hoyt.

Westminster Public Library

For years the Westminster Library, consisting of little more than two shelf racks and various packing boxes, roamed around from grocery store to school to church. Then, in October 1951 the town partitioned off a knotty-pine room in the city hall for its use. The Wizard Homemakers took over its furnishings as a project with delightful results. The library grew successfully because of the cooperation it received from individuals and

groups on every hand. Probably 80% of the collection of over 6,000 books, with all "duds" weeded out, had been donated. The Jay Cee Maids bought two encyclopedias to add to the collection.

Television slowed down circulation for about six months in 1953. Since then, if anything, it added interest to reading. Book circulation increased from 5,772 in 1952 to 34,913 in 1958. Library cards numbered 3,170.

All funds for the library in 1958 were budgeted by the city council. Three thousand dollars were allowed for salaries and eight hundred dollars for books and supplies. A yearly non-resident fee of two dollars for adults and one dollar for children was charged.

In 1960 the library was still located in one room of the temporary building which housed all city administrative offices. The room had 600 square feet of floor space, a staff consisting of one librarian and two clerical assistants, and a collection of 5,000 books, supplemented by loans from the Adams County Bookmobile System.

Financing was approved for a new building in a projected municipal center in that same year. A professional librarian was hired in May of 1961 and the library moved into the new building of approximately 3800 square feet in September.

A library board was created consisting of five members acting in an advisory capacity.



Westminster Public Library

By 1963 the library was employing four staff members and two pages. The book collection had grown to 12,000 volumes, and the book budget was in excess of \$7,000.

A federal grant of \$75,000 was awarded the library in 1969. This assured the library of a 4100-foot addition. The total cost was \$160,000, \$75,000 being paid by LSCA funds.

The outstanding feature of the addition is a garden-type reading room. There are live plantings of trees, shrubs, and flowers. The plexiglass skylights give an abundance of natural light creating an appearance of outdoors. It has become a favorite place to relax and read leisurely. The downstairs room, previously housing the children's collection, became a multi-purpose room. Library programs are held there and community groups can schedule the room for meetings.

Two display cases were given to the library. The Lions Club of Westminster donated a case to the adult section and the Friends of the Westminster Library purchased a quadrangular display case for the children's library. Company A, 244th Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, built a gently sloping ramp for wheel-chaired

library users. The library now includes audiovisual materials. For those who cannot get to the library, books and materials are delivered by volunteers. Programming for both adults and children is part of the library picture. At the end of 1975 circulation was 177,221, and 44,384 volumes were in the collection.

Through the years, the library has grown steadily and has become an integral part of the Westminster community.

Jean Cohen directs the library. The board of trustees members are Carl Jacobson, chairman, Fred Herrmann, Dee Carter, Alice Organ, and Ted Brees.

Compiled by Barbara Illsley

Windsor Public Library

The Windsor Public Library, established in 1906, has served the town of Windsor and surrounding community continuously, with its "home" being located in five different buildings during the years.

Women of the Windsor Improvement Club, organized in October 1899, were the first to realize the need for reading material, and the forming of a library was one of their main projects. This began to materialize when in June 1906 a mass meeting was called by the Improvement Club, and the Windsor Library Association was formed.

Books from private libraries of club members and others were donated, and \$200 worth of books were purchased.

Through the courtesy of Postmaster Robert E. Hanna, the small collection of books was housed in the post office. Miss Maude Walker, his postal assistant, became librarian.

The Library Association continued to serve the community until 1922, always struggling to make ends meet.

In February 1919 the Library Association finally had a place of its own when it purchased a small house from the Helen E. Porter estate for \$550. She had already willed to the Association some property south of the First National Bank on 5th Street. Repair and remodeling brought the total cost to \$948.15. This small house became the new library.

After the State Legislature passed a law permitting municipalities to create public libraries and provide for their maintenance by tax levy, the Library Association and other organizations petitioned the town board to take over the responsibility. On October 9, 1922 the board adopted an ordinance creating a free public library for residents of the town, to be tax supported.

In March 1923 Mrs. Iola Branch was appointed librarian, a position she held for almost 37 years.

Early in 1935 a movement was started to lease an old one-story brick school building on Walnut Street from District 4 to be converted in a library. There was enthusiastic response by the community with almost every organization and individual in Windsor providing money, talent, or time. The building was remodeled inside and stuccoed and repaired outside. Grounds were landscaped and a sprinkling system installed.

Open house was held on June 4, 1936. In addition to having adequate library space for the first time, a community museum was started in the east room of the building.

This arrangement lasted until 1948 when at the request of the school board, the library board relinquished its

lease so the building could be sold by the school district.

The library collection, which had grown in its new environment, was moved into cramped quarters on the second floor of the town hall, with the hope that it would be a temporary location. Future plans included building a new library on the property still owned on 5th Street.

Mrs. Branch, continuing her service as librarian and overcoming the many obstacles along the way, never doubted that the Windsor Library would some day have a home of its own. She retired February 1, 1960, at the age of 77, before her dream became a reality. Her niece, Mrs. Herb D. (Sylva) Walter, was appointed librarian at that time.

In May 1960 the library board began a drive for a new building. The American Legion post provided impetus by pledging \$5,000 if that amount could be matched by the community. Lowest bid was \$26,505. Work started in October 1960, and by the time the building was finished, all needed money had been raised through donations from businesses, organizations, individuals, and benefit events.

Open house was held in the new modern building on April 16, 1961, the first day of National Library Week that year. An all new registration list was started at that time and has been updated regularly since then.

The new library was an immediate success. Members of the board who contributed so much time and effort to the project were George E. Tozer, chairman, John B. Frye, Mrs. Henry (Effie) Brunner, Dr. W. Wayne Miller, and Mrs. E.D. (Marjorie) Kadlub, the latter two having replaced Mrs. George F. Kern and Miss Anna Caroline Teller shortly before the building project began.

Mrs. Walter resigned as librarian in June 1964, and Miss Loraine Brooks served for a short time. Mrs. L.A. (Bernice) Warner was appointed August 1, 1964, and is still serving in that capacity. Sylva Walter replaced Dr. Miller on the library board in 1972.

Windsor has continued to grow, especially since 1972 when the large Kodak plant was built. The library is already outgrowing the building, and plans are being made for expansion if financial arrangements can be made. It will take constant updating for the library to fulfill the future needs of the community.

History by Sylva Walter

Woodland Park Public Library

Public library service in Woodland Park was organized in 1966 through the efforts of the Parent-Teacher Organization. The Women's Project Club loaned the use of Memorial Hall — once a part of the old Railroad Station. The library was first called the Woodland Park Memorial Library to honor the many residents of the community who donated books and funds to make it a reality.

It first opened on January 15, 1966 — in a snowstorm. Sixty-one patrons braved the storm to have cards issued and select from the 500 books then on hand.

In 1967 the Ute Pass Masonic Lodge 188 donated the present building, once the first schoolhouse in Woodland Park, to the library board. This building was moved to its present location at 309 Pine. Also, in 1967 Woodland Park Memorial became a member of the Plains and Peaks Library System and changed its name to Woodland Park Public Library when it moved to its new location.

At the end of the first year of service a circulation total

was 22,741. The library has over 1,900 patrons and a book stock of 6,300. In addition there are approximately 1,750 children's and adults' paperback books to lend or trade.

LaVonne Leitner serves as librarian. The trustees are Marilyn Vaughn, chairman, Dolores Walker, Kenneth White, Nora Stafford, and Chester Koons.

Compiled by LaVonne Leitner

Wray

Northeast Colorado Regional Library

Having begun under the aegis of the Colorado State Library as a demonstration in 1959, the Northeast Colorado Regional Library came into being with the signing of an agreement by county commissioners and county clerks from Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Washington, and Yuma Counties, and the Colorado State Library on February 10, 1961.

Under this agreement the government of the new organization was vested in a board of trustees; one trustee was appointed by the commissioners in each of the five counties. This newly-formed entity comprised an area greater than the combined areas of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Service through the area was varied. Local organizations maintained deposits of Regional Library material in town halls, vacant buildings, and private homes. Schools in communities with less than twelve hours of public library service per week were deemed eligible for direct library service. All public libraries located within the five counties used the holdings of the new library to supplement their resources.

From its inception Northeast Colorado Regional Library became the channel for interlibrary loans from the Colorado State Library to the area. In addition to regular bookmobile service to all stops, much regional library material was mailed to patrons.

Approximately three years after its establishment, the Regional Library became the headquarters for a system of public libraries within the area. Five libraries elected to work together in interlibrary loans and central purchasing and processing. This cooperative work continued until the Regional Library as well as other public libraries in the area became part of the High Plains Library System.

Following Evelyn Horan's retirement in 1972 after many years of dedicated service, Gail Oman became librarian of N.E.C.R.L. in January 1973. Darmae Judd is the present librarian.

Seeking to bring library service to a segment of the population which did not visit the bookmobile, the library inaugurated a paperback books-by-mail service on an experimental basis for Washington County in the fall of 1973. Based upon the enthusiastic reception of the service in that county, Mail-A-Book service was expanded the following year to include rural residents of all five participating counties. Use of the paperback mail order service continues to grow, and it is now offered to residents of small communities without public libraries as well as to rural route boxholders.

The board of trustees members are Mrs. Paul Safford, Chairman, Mr. Carroll Crawford, Mrs. Malcolm Dickerson, Mrs. Claire Loutzenhiser, and Mrs. Ed Cecil.

History by Evelyn Horan and
Gail Oman

Wray Public Library

On January 14, 1913, at a meeting with the president of the Tuesday Study Club, a committee of four ladies was appointed to confer with Mr. Simon Dow, Editor of the Wray Gazette, about starting a library in Wray. As a result, the club decided to make a collection of books with a donation of \$2 from each member.

The collection was first housed in Mr. Graham's office. Later, it was moved to a photograph studio where the rent was one dollar a month. At this time, the club ladies took turns as librarian. It was soon found that a heated building was necessary, and so the library was moved to a lawyer's office where the rent was free. A librarian was hired for one dollar a week.

The next home of the library was an old one-room school building which had previously been a jail. In 1918 a new City Hall was built, providing housing for the Wray Library. Here, the utilities were paid by the city; the librarian's salary was raised to \$10 a month, and \$100 was given yearly for support. This donation by the city was begun in 1925. The location remained stable for thirty-one years.

The Tuesday Study Club received financial help from the Fire Department, the P.E.O., and the Commercial Club, as well as generous support from the community as they responded to various projects of Tuesday Study Club — projects designated for the benefit of the local library. On September 8, 1949 the Wray Library was moved to a remodeled early-day home which had been purchased by the city. On completion of a new City Hall, built where the historic home had stood, the library was once more moved — back into the old City Building, now converted into a Fire Station, Library, and Ladies' Lounge. At this time, the city assumed the expense of the librarian's salary, the utilities, and a portion of the book expense.

A library board was named by the city council in 1967. At this time, a contract was signed with the High Plains Public Library System, extending all the services of the local library through book loans and grants which accentuated the appreciation for and use of library services. This all lent impetus to a library building project which housing for both the Wray Public Library and the Northeast Colorado Regional Library which gives library service to five counties through the Bookmobile.



Wray Public Library

The cornerstone for the new building was laid September 15, 1968 at the corner of Blake and Seventh Streets. Very early in 1969, the Wray Public Library moved into this lovely new home. At this time, the Tuesday Study Club ceased sponsoring the library, ex-

cept for consistently generous contributions. The club also gave a Retirement Tea on March 21, 1976 for a member, Mrs. (Roy) Leora Houston, who had served as City Librarian for eight years.

The Wray City Council appoints the five members of the library board of trustees who hire the librarian and the assistants subject to the approval of the city council. The staff members are paid by the City of Wray. The city pays also for the maintenance of the building and allocates a specified amount for books and book care.

The trustees are Ethel Akey, Bertha Utz, Marsha Stephenson, Sandra Bowman, and Bruce Palmrose.

Yampa Library

A library for the Town of Yampa! That was the project the members of the Yampa Woman's Club chose for themselves at their organizational meeting in December 1933. There were 23 women in all — stouthearted and strong of will and of back.

A building on Main Street was immediately available. It was the former Bank of Yampa, a small, sedate building of gray stucco with a square false front in which were set two huge windows facing the street.

It was a herculean task to change the august building into a public library, but these staunch women, many of whom were pioneers, were equal to it. They set about raising money by giving dances and raffling off cedar chests filled with their own hand work. The dances were well received in those days, and they soon had raised the money to purchase the building.

At the rear of the bank stood an old barn of weather-beaten boards which had housed countless teams of horses during the life of the bank. The barn must come down, it was decided, and the dauntless women set to work with hammers, wrecking bars, and shovels. The husbands gallantly hauled away the wreckage and then began work on the grounds. Each club member brought trees and shrubs to be planted in the yard which had to be fenced to protect it from livestock which wandered or were driven into town.

Advertisements were placed in the county newspaper asking for donations of books for the new project. Books, books of every kind and description came in. The library was at last an actuality with a lovely lawn beside it to gladden the eye.

The club continued to give dances to provide funds for the library. Help also came during the depression years through the NYA program. High school girls were hired as librarians with club members supervising them. They were also kept busy cleaning and painting the building.

When librarians were no longer paid by the government, the Woman's Club paid the salary as long as it was able to do so. Then, as dances had ceased to be money-makers, it was necessary for individual members to serve in turn as librarians.

Because of financial difficulties in maintaining the lawn, the Woman's Club gave the fenced yard to the Town of Yampa for a public park and picnic ground.

The budget of the Yampa Library is very small, but as long as there is anyone who wishes to borrow material, the Woman's Club, still staunch and stouthearted, will strive to accommodate them.

Yuma Public Library

Yuma, a town of 2,500 population, is located in the high plains area of Colorado. Since the organization of the Federated Yuma Woman's Club in 1924, the founding and promoting of the local library has been its main project. For the first few years, beginning with 1,200 books, it was housed in the town hall. In 1929 blueprints from the American Library Association were secured and upon request the town board allocated \$6,000 for the construction of the building. At the time the heat and utilities were furnished by the town, plus one hundred dollars per year. Through the years the unceasing efforts of the Federated Woman's Club have wrought many changes.

A close relationship with the State Library has been maintained. Beginning with the Rocket Reading Club in 1958, a summer reading program for children has been conducted in the library each summer. Books were borrowed from the State Library with the needs of the reading program in view.

In 1956, during the Eisenhower administration, the Library Services Act was passed. From there on the Yuma Woman's Club took the initiative in securing library

services for an area of several counties in northeastern Colorado. After much organizational work and many interviews with county commissioners, at which State Library representatives were in attendance, the local support was obtained for a one year trial of a bookmobile in 1960.

A library council had been organized during the process of obtaining the bookmobile. One representative of each club, home demonstration or other federated club and church organization takes part in this. It has been a means of making the public aware of the necessity for a good library and a means of gaining the support of many people. Representatives from these organizations also help with programs for observing Children's Book Week, National Library Week, and summer reading programs.

Yuma is a member of the Northeast Colorado Regional Library at Wray. Through it a system of interlibrary loans in the region has been established.

The new library was built in 1967 and occupied in 1968.

Evelyn Saxton is the librarian, and the trustees are Mr. Mark Mulder, Mrs. Glenn Thompson, and Mrs. John Jendzeloski.

History courtesy of
Yuma Public Library

PART II

THE COLORADO LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Regional Library Service Systems in Colorado



Arkansas Valley Regional Library Service System

Counties served: Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo

Population: 245, 297

Members: Academic 3, Public 20, School 20, Special 6
Total: 49

System Staff: 3 FTE (full-time equivalents)

State Funds: 1976 \$92,893. 1977 \$85,585 + \$2,332 in local funds = \$87,917

Programs for 1976-1977

Administration

Provides for system director, part-time bookkeeper, operating expenses, coordination of system activities, consultant services, planning, travel, system meetings.

Reference and Interlibrary Loan

Provides for access to information and materials within the system area and provides a communication center for utilization of statewide resources.

Resource Development and Utilization

Provides for system consultations, system bimonthly newsletter, publicity, inventory of soft and hardware in system area, rotating collections of books, provision of 16mm films, partial cost of lease books, inventory of A/V materials, meetings for cooperative book selection.

Personnel Development

Provides for instruction sessions for librarians and board members and assistance in attending in-state library conferences.

Arkansas Valley Library System

During the spring and early summer of 1965 the Nelson Associates of New York conducted a study for the State Library. The essential purpose of the study was to survey the resources of libraries in the State of Colorado and to make recommendations for improvement of library service. The study entitled "New Directions in Library Service in Colorado" recommended the establishment of library systems. The Colorado Plan for Library Development was drafted by a committee representing the Colorado Council for Library Development, the Colorado Library Association, and the Colorado State Library. It was approved by the State Board of Education in September of 1966 and adopted by the Colorado Library Association at its annual meeting in October 1966. The plan embraces a number of recommendations from the Nelson Report and includes many recommendations from librarians as expressed at hearings. This plan called

for the establishment of systems and the state-wide reference network.

The State Library designated seven areas for the establishment of systems. The Arkansas Valley system was the sixth system established when the first agreement between the State Library and the Board of Trustees of the Pueblo Library was entered into in December of 1967.

The Arkansas Valley Library System office is located in Pueblo. It has four programs: 1. Administration (includes consultant services via telephone, mail, and visits to the member libraries) 2. System Area Resource Center (interlibrary loan) 3. Library Development of Resources (includes the purchase of print and non-print material for member libraries) 4. Library Personnel Development (includes developing and offering workshops to member and non-member libraries). Each program request includes: goal(s), need for the program, activities of the program, and a three year plan for the program. After council approval the request is forwarded to the State Library. Staff of the State Library reviews the request with each system librarian and the System Area Resource Center director before accepting the request.

On October 1, 1974 the system became an association under Colorado Revised Statutes 1963. This permits the system to keep its own books.

In September 1974, the system office was moved from the small alcove on the first floor of the Pueblo Regional Library to the more spacious and private space in the basement of the building. This facilitated the operation of system programs markedly.

By 1976 twenty-one libraries had joined the Arkansas Valley Library System.

Compiled by Maria Mata

Central Colorado Regional Library Service System

Counties served: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, Jefferson

Population: 1,500,000

Members: Academic 8, Public 17, School 5, Special 4
Total: 34

System Staff: 6 FTE (full time equivalents)

State Funds: 1976 \$181,561. 1977 \$167,261 + \$54,855 in local funds = \$222,116

Programs for 1976-1977

Administration

Provides for system director, program assistant, account clerk (½ FTE), office management, planning, professional affairs (meetings, etc), travel, budget management and consultation.

Access and Sharing of Library Resources

Provides for dispatcher (½ FTE), three drivers, courier

services covering three routes, reciprocal borrowing, reference services reimbursement formula, interlibrary loan, 8mm film collection, and union catalog purchases.

Continuing Education

Provides for an interlibrary loan workshop and a cooperative serials roundtable workshop.

Community Relations

Provides for a legislative network, six system newsletters, and an A/V presentation about CCLS.

Research, Demonstration and Evaluation

Provides for developing a method for doing collaborative serials collections, interlibrary loan procedures, audio-visual resources sharing, human resources directory, union catalogs, and cost accounting methodology.

Central Colorado Library System

The Central Colorado Public Library System (CCPLS) came into existence on August 29, 1967, when librarians and trustees of eleven public libraries in the Denver metropolitan area met under the auspices of the Inter-County Regional Planning Commission (ICRPC) to "organize or develop a structure to enable the libraries in the area to cooperate more effectively and to fully utilize the federal assistance available for library programs". Judy Houk, staff librarian with the ICRPC, was the executive agent at that meeting.

Bylaws were promptly adopted forming the Central Colorado Library Council, the governing board of the cooperative system; the system and the council retained the ICRPC (later the Denver Regional Council of Governments) as its fiscal and administrative agent.

Reciprocal borrowing soon evolved as the system's major program. It was activated on June 17, 1968; all eleven libraries participated at its inception. All seventeen of the public libraries are now participating.

Throughout the system's career, it has taken on other traditional interlibrary cooperative programs: interlibrary loan, reciprocal use of reference services, and courier services. In addition the system, in 1974, began development of a computer-based union catalogue of monographic holdings. It also published two union lists of serials (1974-75). The system has also engaged in testing of telefacsimile equipment and has devised a product-oriented methodology for cost-accounting in public libraries.

In May 1975, a "regional library service systems" act was passed by the legislature and enacted into law. With that statute, the CCPLS became a legal entity in its own right. As a result, the system separated from the Denver Regional Council of Governments and assumed responsibility for its own fiscal and administrative affairs. Also, consequent to the same act, the system began negotiations to include all types of libraries. As a result, the system changed its name to the Central Colorado Library System.

History by Ed Sayre

High Plains Regional Library Service System

Counties served: Kit Carson, Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Yuma

Population: 306, 991

Members: Academic 5, Public 32, School 30, Special 2
Total: 69

System Staff: 5.43 FTE (full-time equivalents)

State Funding: 1976 \$101,977. 1977 \$93,954 + \$14,373 in local funds = \$108,327

Programs for 1976-1977

Coordination of Inter-Agency Activities

Provides for system director, program information consultant, secretary, system operations including physical space, fiscal, administrative and operational support services, orientation for new members, consultant services, needs assessment, carrying out research and demonstration projects.

System Area Resource Center

Provides the users of system member libraries and media centers with interlibrary loan at the system and state levels.

Central Purchasing and Processing

Provides for central purchasing of library materials and technical processing supplies, access to assembly-line cataloging and technical processing of print materials, exploration of alternative approaches to central cataloging and processing.

Film Library Cooperative

Provides for all film holding members to secure agreement for the cooperative use of their film collections, a union catalog of film holdings, film delivery, and leased films.

High Plains Public Library System

Planning was well under way in 1966 to implement a pilot project for cooperative use of books and materials, and specialized services in northeastern Colorado. *The Colorado Plan for Library Development*, newly-adopted, had suggested that state and federal funds could improve public libraries most effectively through system operations, and if successful, should be continued to be funded in this manner. Mrs. Elizabeth Adcock Bowers of the Weld County Library System and Miss Evelyn Horan from the Northeast Colorado Library System were instrumental in designing the High Plains Public Library System, with other interested librarians in the nine county region. In 1970 the system became an association of political subdivisions with most area public libraries as official members.

Most of the original programs are still in effect after a high degree of success in the pilot project. Since 1965, reference and interlibrary loan have been the most widely-used of all system services. Lending of materials was extended to schools and community colleges in 1969; those agencies borrow approximately one-third of the materials now circulated for interlibrary loan purposes. As the High Plains System Area Resource Center, the Weld County Library has always encouraged cooperation among types of libraries.

Centralized purchasing and processing has long been a program supported by the Weld County Library; even before the High Plains Public Library System was conceived, libraries across the state had been taking advantage of such a service. It grew with Federal funds until 100 libraries were involved. When such support waned in 1971, the project found it difficult to maintain itself. The system at that time assumed responsibility for the processing center, with supporting funds that require no local input. Centralized processing has been a successful program at High Plains, and has also helped in the creation of a locator file for collections in the system area.

Book selection guidance and materials exchange broaden local library collections and continue to have system support. Shared materials have included special subject collections for display and use, 8mm films, cassette tapes and players, framed art prints, and mystery collections. McNaughton lease books have been provided to each library in the system and have proved to be enormously successful by quickly providing the books that are in current demand in each library and by reducing the impact of borrowing high-interest materials from the System Area Resource Center.

Unity through communication has been a continual effort throughout the development of the system. Six meetings are held annually with representatives from all member libraries in attendance. Communication is basic to cooperative efforts, and has consistently rated a high priority. Continuing education, as well as information and materials exchange, is achieved at the eight-week meetings. System personnel make two to three visits to each library or board of trustees during the year to assist in program development and with operational problems. Workshops provide training on practical library techniques, as well as a means of getting librarians in the area together.

The High Plains Film Library Cooperative became a reality in the fall of 1975. This is an effort of six northeastern Colorado libraries and media centers to improve film services to area residents. Through the Cooperative over 1300 16mm film titles are available to the users of the media services of the Weld County Board of Cooperative Educational Services, University of Northern Colorado Michener Library, Aims College, Morgan Community College, the Weld County, Fort Collins, Greeley, Ft. Morgan, and Loveland public libraries, and the High Plains Public Library System. The project was made possible by a Federal Title III Library Services and Construction Act grant awarded to the High Plains Library System by the Colorado State Library.

All eligible public libraries in the High Plains region have been members of the system. Those 32 members are now joined by 28 school districts, and by the University of Northern Colorado, Aims College, Morgan Community College, Northeastern Junior College, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife Research Center Library. Priorities,

programs and ideas will be reconsidered in the immediate future so that all types of libraries may benefit from system services.

Ron Stump has been director of the High Plains Public Library System, now called the High Plains Regional Library System, since 1974.

History by Vicki Lea

Pathfinder Regional Library Service System

Counties served: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel

Population: 107,903

Members: Academic 2, Public 19, School 12, Special 5
Total: 38

System Staff: 2.5 FTE (full-time equivalents)

State Funding: 1976 \$60,555. 1977 \$55,791 + \$4,872 in local funds = \$60,663

Programs for 1976-1977

Headquarters Operation

Provides for system director, clerical staff, coordination of programs, consultative services, system meetings, travel, planning, publicity, office and fiscal operations.

System Resources

Provides reference and interlibrary loan services at the system or state level, bulk loans of books, and partial payment of leased books (rental books).

Personnel Development

Provides for instructional sessions for library staff and trustees to attend within and outside of the system area.

Pathfinder Library System

The Pathfinder Library System has its origins in the fall of 1961 when the Montrose Library received a grant for three hundred dollars to initiate library service to schools in rural areas of Montrose County. This service was subsequently expanded to other counties through a Bookmobile Demonstration Grant. The bookmobile served thirteen schools and several small communities. The program was administered by the Montrose Public Library and Montrose School District RE-1J.

The system received its name from the sobriquet applied to Otto Mears, The Pathfinder. Mears was a pioneer remembered best for his high-country toll road constructions.

The Pathfinder Library System, as it is structured today, had its beginnings on August 19, 1967, when forty area representatives met with State Library personnel to consider organizational plans for cooperative library serv-

ices in a seven county area. The counties included, and still include, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Delta, Ouray, San Miguel, and Mesa.

The largest public library in the system, Mesa County Public Library in Grand Junction, serves as the System Area Resource Center. The headquarters office of the System is located at the Montrose Regional Library. System Directors have included Doris Ellis, 1968-1973, and Norm Sams, 1973-.

The system presently serves nineteen public libraries, including branches. With implementation of the new systems law passed in 1975, additional publicly supported libraries, school, academic, and special libraries, will be coming into the system.

History by Norman Sams

Plains & Peaks Regional Library Service System

Counties served: Elbert, El Paso, Lincoln, Park, Teller

Population: 324,197

Members: Academic 2, Public 10, School 16, Special 2
Total: 30

System Staff: 2.5 FTE (full-time equivalents)

State Funds: 1976 \$105,975. 1977 \$97,638 + \$16,613 in local funds = \$114,251

Programs for 1976-1977

Administration

Provides for a system director, secretary-bookkeeper, framework in which system programs and activities can be carried out and evaluated, office management, consultative and advisory services to members.

Reference Services

Provide interlibrary loan resources, bulk loan of materials and reference services.

Special Projects

Cooperate with Level I libraries in providing access to data bases, to supply system members with bibliographic information. Provide Level II libraries with partial funding of leased books, rotating collections, and purchasing and processing services.

Reciprocal Borrowing

Provides for library users to borrow materials from libraries outside their taxing area.

Communications

Provides for a communications network which includes courier service to deliver interlibrary loan, reference in-

formation and other materials and communications to member libraries.

Public Relations/Public Information

Provides for a part-time public relations specialist who will develop publicity materials and publish a newsletter for the system.

In-Service

Provides a continuing education program for librarians and board members and assistance to members participating in state, regional, and national library conferences.

Plains and Peaks Public Library System

The Plains and Peaks Public Library System was begun as a pilot project in 1966 to demonstrate that better library service can be given more economically by a system of autonomous libraries than by individual libraries serving small segments of the population.

Originally, the system included only the three libraries in El Paso County — Pikes Peak Regional Library District, Security Public Library and the Manitou Springs Public Library. Later, the system members agreed to expand their geographical area to include Elbert, El Paso, Lincoln, Park, Teller, and Douglas Counties. In 1969 Douglas County, with closer economic and geographic ties to Denver than to Colorado Springs, became a member of the Central Colorado Library System.

The system was chartered as the Association for the Plains and Peaks Public Library System in 1970. From 1970 through September 30, 1976, it has been governed by a council consisting of system representatives from each member public library board. As a program of the Colorado State Library, the Plains and Peaks System offered its membership interlibrary loan and reference service, consultant services, resource development and continuing education programs.

In May 1975 the Colorado regional library service systems were established by a law, which provided for the participation of school, academic and special libraries in the systems.

To implement the law, other libraries in Elbert, El Paso, Lincoln, Park, and Teller counties were invited to system membership. As of February 29, 1976, system membership included 16 libraries, including one bookmobile, 15 school libraries, and Pikes Peak Area Board of Cooperative Service, Fort Carson (U.S. Army) Post Library, El Paso Community Learning Materials Center, and University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

History courtesy of
Plains and Peaks Public Library System

Southwest Regional Library Service System

Counties served: Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, LaPlata, Mineral, Montezuma, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan

Population: 85,681

Members: Academic 2, Public 12, School 14 Total: 28

System Staff: 3. 169 (full-time equivalents)

State Funding: 1976 \$54,618. 1977 \$50,321 + \$6,114 in local funds = \$56,435

Programs for 1976-1977

Administration and Consulting

Provides for system director, support staff, coordination of programs, consultative services, travel, system meetings, planning, grant writing, office and fiscal operations.

Interlibrary Loan and Reference

Provides reference and interlibrary loan services at the system or state level.

Continuing Education

Provides continuing education both formally and informally for all member librarians.

Media Sharing

Provides system 8mm film collection, union list of films, specialized subject bibliography e.g. Chicano and Spanish materials, partial payment of lease books, professional library materials.

Publications and Public Relations

Provides for news releases for system and assistance to member libraries, and bi-monthly system newsletter.

Southwest Library System

The Southwest Library System was formed November 22, 1967 as a result of an agreement among libraries in the San Luis Valley and San Juan Basin.

The agreement was instigated by Gordon Bennett, State Librarian, and carried through by Ethel Altenbach of the State Library. Ms. Altenbach met with library board members in Alamosa and Durango, who agreed that the system should be formed and that it be headquartered in Durango. Interlibrary loan was the system's business. There were no cooperative services among the libraries until 1968.

Erme Hand, Children's Librarian at the Durango Public Library, handled interlibrary loan during the first days of the system. Soon she had half-time help from Ms. Dorothy Tricker, who later became the first director of the Southwest System.

Mrs. Tricker worked in cooperation with Mrs. Marion Lundell, Librarian at the Durango Public Library, the system's area resource center. The Durango Public Library Board of Trustees was the system's governing board.

The Durango Library is still the system's SARC, but in 1975 the system formed its own governing board and moved to an office away from the library.

Mrs. Suzanne Thompson replaced Ms. Tricker as director in September 1971. Ms. Susan Palmer was system

director from May 1973 until November 1974. Since that time until the present, the director of the system has been Ms. Janice Beck.

History courtesy of
Southwest Library System

Three Rivers Regional Library Service System

Counties served: Eagle, Garfield, Jackson, Grand, Lake, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, Summit

Population: 81,792

Members: Academic 3, Public 13, School 15 Total: 31

System Staff: 3 FTE (full-time equivalents)

State Funding: 1976 \$53,672. 1977 \$49,450

Programs for 1976-1977

Headquarters Operation

Provides for system director, secretary, coordination of programs, system meetings, travel, planning, publicity, operating expenses, and fiscal operations.

Resource Coordination

Carries out the filling of interlibrary loan requests from other members to be filled at either the system or state level.

Library Development

Provides for on-location consultant service to system members.

Personnel Development

Provides for instructional sessions for library staff in the system area.

Three Rivers Library System

The organizational meeting for Three Rivers Library System was held on February 6, 1967 at the Glenwood Springs Public Library. During the days of its infancy the system was composed of Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties. The system was guided by Mrs. Virgene Anderson, Librarian of the Garfield County Library. At the organizational meeting it was suggested that the headquarters for the system could be at the new Garfield County Library at New Castle which was under construction at the time.

Those in attendance at this meeting envisioned a cooperative system with "emphasis placed on joint service to hospitals, nursing homes and shut-ins, cooperative book selection, in-service training, system-wide communication, pick-up and delivery services and exten-

sion of bookmobile service to nursing homes and Pitkin County".

The first budget for the system was for the year 1967-68. It was arrived at by multiplying the county area population of 56,550 by 17¢ per capita. This yielded an astounding \$9,613. The money was granted by the State Library with a stern reminder that the "money is to be spent for the good of all System member libraries and that no library will be expected or allowed to furnish service at no charge".

The system program in the early years was essentially a network for reference and interlibrary loan. To that, as funds permitted, were added such goodies as workshops, summer reading materials, art prints, a periodical list, and a locator file for books on Colorado.

During the spring of 1969, it was determined by the Garfield County Board that it would be wise to employ a full time director for the system, a responsibility which up to that point had been assumed by the director of the County Library, Virgene Anderson.

Starting August 1, 1969 the county board employed Mr. Beryl Forrester as the first full time director for the system. Mr. Forrester has held that position through the writing of this article in April, 1976.

The system office from the beginning has been at the Garfield County Library in New Castle. In 1970 the county finished off an office space in the basement from which the system operated through fiscal 1976.

March 16, 1976 was a historic date for the system when its membership enlarged from 12 libraries to 30. On that date 15 school districts, 1 public and 2 community college districts joined.

Through the years the system has attempted to serve as a back-up and coordinating unit for the member libraries. In addition to reference and interlibrary loan, the system has provided consultant service, rotation of special collections, and has generally assisted the libraries in the provision of services which may not otherwise have been available.

History by Beryl Forrester

PART III

COLORADO STATE LIBRARY

Territorial Library

On November 6, 1861 the first Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Colorado passed legislation establishing a Territorial Library and Cabinet and declaring the Territorial Superintendent of Common Schools, Ex-Officio Librarian. The law charged the librarian with the responsibility of safe-guarding the collection, of keeping "a record of all books and documents . . ." of directing all expenditures, of exchanging documents with other legislative bodies and libraries, of controlling the sale of Supreme Court reports and statutes, of reporting to the Assembly on the first day of every regular session, and of controlling the use of the collection through rules and regulations promulgated by him. The Territorial Cabinet was a collection of minerals, fossils and ore samples, and the law required the librarian to request the deposit of specimens in the library by interested citizens for display purposes.

In 1865 the Territorial Legislative Assembly amended the first library statute on the books and named the treasurer, Ex-Officio Territorial Librarian. In 1877, however, the job was transferred back to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

State Library, 1877-1933

When Colorado achieved statehood, the Territorial Library and Cabinet became the State Library. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction became Ex-Officio State Librarian. Prior to statehood, only officers and ex-officers of the government were allowed to borrow materials from the library. With the change in the form of government, this privilege was extended to all persons upon the deposit of sums of money equal to twice the value of the material borrowed.

In the beginning the State Library did not offer traditional public library services. Its small staff was engaged in the collection and processing of local, state and federal documents, and in the distribution of Colorado publications to public agencies (primarily state libraries and library commissions) outside the state and to offices of government, both local and state, within Colorado.

State Board of Library Commissioners

In 1899 the State Board of Library Commissioners was created by the 12th Session of the General Assembly to strengthen and stimulate library service throughout the state.

Appointments to the commission were made by the governor. The law required the body to provide counseling service to all free libraries; to assist in the establishment of new libraries; to provide help in methods of library management and control; and to make a biennial report to the governor, publishing 500 copies of this

document for distribution. It also required all libraries supported in whole or in part with public funds (including public, school, college, and university libraries and the State and Supreme Court libraries) to make annual reports to the commission. The law provided \$250 per year for the operation of the program.

Colorado Traveling Library Commission

In 1903 the Colorado Traveling Library Commission was created by the Legislature as the result of an intensive campaign by the State Federation of Women's Clubs. With the establishment of this agency, school and public library service in the form of quantity book loans was begun in Colorado.

Colorado Library Commission

In 1929 the General Assembly merged the State Board of Library Commissioners and the Colorado Traveling Library Commission, since the functions of the two agencies were closely related, naming the new agency the Colorado Library Commission. Until 1933, this consolidated library program provided limited service and operated on lean budgets. In 1933 a new administrative code went into effect, and the rights, powers and duties imposed by law in and upon the Colorado Library Commission were transferred to the Colorado State Library.

State Library, 1933-

Under the new code the program of the library was expanded to include general and extension library services, in addition to the documents function which was its original responsibility. The collecting and cataloging of mineral specimens were gradually eliminated from the program.

In 1947 the 36th General Assembly repealed all of the library legislation on the statutes and enacted a completely new and modern omnibus library law for the state. Since 1947 this law has been amended three times. In 1955 the method of financing county library units was changed to conform with financing procedures for other county programs. In 1961 an amendment was passed which reinforced sections of the law dealing with advisory and financial assistance available from the State Library to local units and areas wishing to establish or strengthen local programs, and to persons employed by local libraries in which better trained personnel is required. Bookmobile service as a means of distributing materials to borrowers was mentioned specifically for the first time in Colorado law in the 1961 amendment. The 43rd General Assembly contributed further to the development of libraries in the state by appropriating \$100,000 for public library grants to be distributed to

qualifying local units in the state under the revised law.

In 1975 an amendment was passed which allowed for the legal establishment of regional library service systems. The seven systems in Colorado had been funded by the state in addition to federal Library Services and Construction Act funds since 1967.

The Library Services and Construction Act was passed in 1956 and signed by President Dwight Eisenhower, making funds available through the Colorado State Library to libraries for development and for services. The federal government has appropriated funds annually since 1956.

Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 provided federal funds to schools to develop and improve school libraries and media centers. Until 1974 these funds were channeled through the Colorado State Library for distribution. In 1974, Title II, ESEA and Title III of the National Defense Education Act became Part B of Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education

Act; the administration of this new program left the Colorado State Library to come under the direct supervision of the Colorado Department of Education.

The Directors of the Colorado State Library

This is a partial list of the Directors of the Colorado State Library and its predecessor, the Colorado Traveling Library Commission.

Mrs. Julia V. Welles, President,	
Colorado Traveling Library Commission,	1903-1912
Miss Anne Marie Strasser	1929-1937
Robert A. Luke	1939-1941
Mrs. Clara Holland Cutright	1941-1943
Gordon L. Bennett	1943-1969
James D. Meeks	1969-1974
Richard M. Cheski	1974-1976
Dr. Arvin C. Blome, Acting Director	Feb.-Sept., 1976
Ms. Anne Marie Falsone	1976-

PART IV

STATISTICAL TABLES

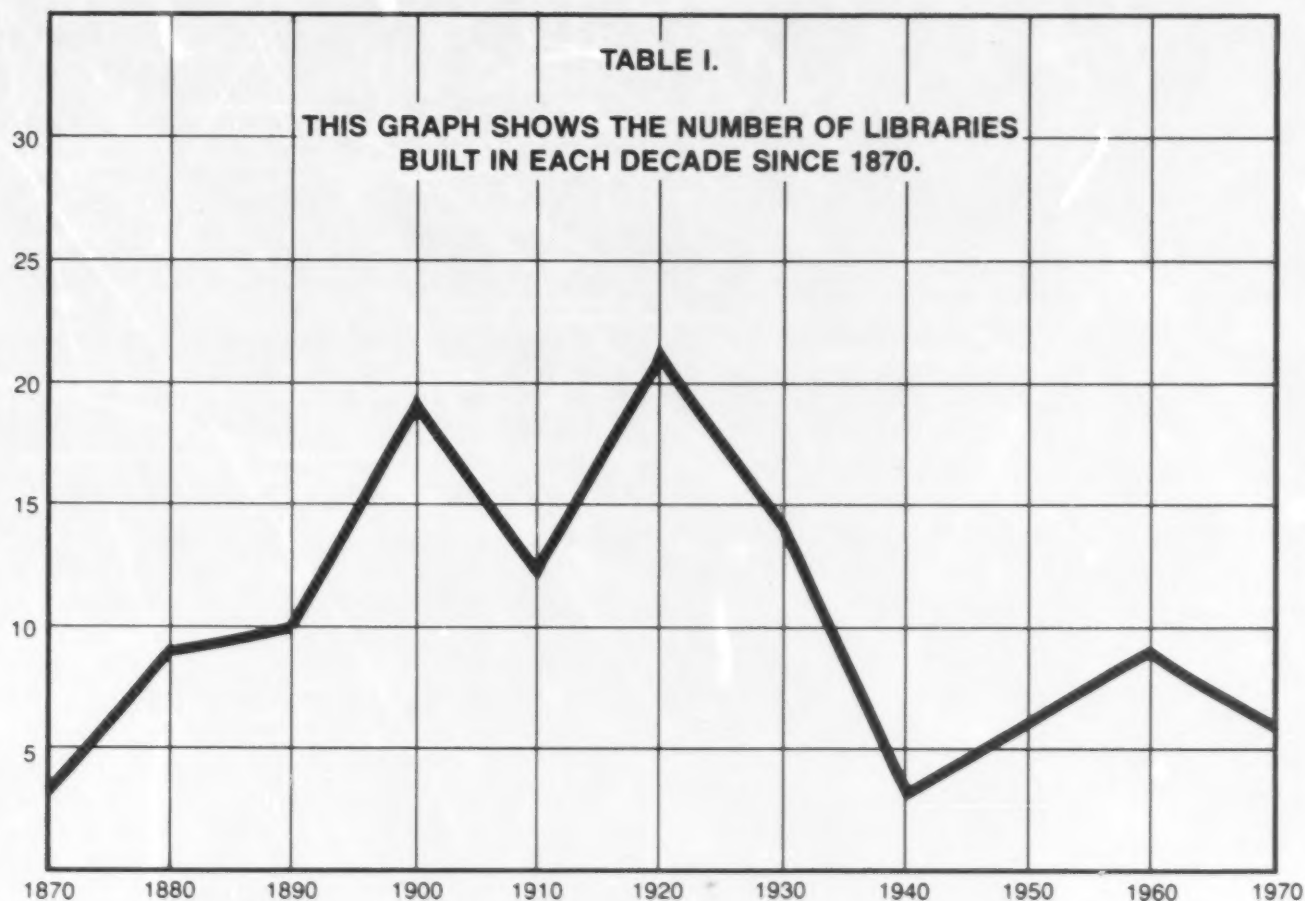


**TABLE II
CHRONOLOGY**

The founding dates of the libraries are taken from the information made available by the libraries.

Year Founded - Name and location

1860 - Denver Public Library, Denver
 1870 - Greeley Public Library, Greeley
 1871 - Longmont Public Library, Longmont
 1872 - Pikes Peak Regional Library District, Colorado Springs
 1882 - Boulder Public Library, Boulder
 1882 - Carnegie Public Library, Trinidad
 1885 - Loveland Public Library, Loveland
 1885 - Carnegie Public Library, Monte Vista

1886 - Canon City Public Library, Canon City
 1886 - Sedgwick Public Library, Sedgwick
 1887 - Bud Werner Memorial Library, Steamboat Springs
 1888 - Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta
 1890 - Carnegie Public Library, Fort Morgan
 1891 - Fowler Public Library, Fowler
 1891 - Pueblo Regional Library District, Pueblo
 1894 - Salida Public Library, Salida
 1896 - Edwin A. Bemis Public Library, Littleton
 1897 - Florence Public Library, Florence
 1897 - Mesa County Public Library, Grand Junction
 1897 - Lake County Public Library, Leadville
 1898 - Buena Vista Public Library, Buena Vista
 1899 - King's Daughters Library, Del Norte
 1900 - Fort Collins Public Library, Fort Collins
 1900 - Jefferson County Public Library, Golden
 1900 - John Tomay Memorial Library, Georgetown
 1900 - Manitou Springs Public Library, Manitou Springs

1900 - Ouray Public Library, Ouray
 1901 - Eaton Public Library, Eaton
 1904 - Idaho Springs Public Library, Idaho Springs
 1905 - Durango Public Library, Durango
 1905 - Rocky Ford Public Library, Rocky Ford
 1905 - Silverton Public Library, Silverton
 1906 - Huerfano County Public Library, Walsenburg
 1906 - Windsor Public Library, Windsor
 1907 - Archuleta County Library, Pagosa Springs
 1907 - Rifle Public Library, Rifle
 1908 - Brush Carnegie Library, Brush
 1908 - American Legion Auxiliary Library Unit 126, Cheyenne Wells
 1908 - Moffat County Library, Craig
 1908 - Lamar Carnegie Library, Lamar
 1909 - Delta County Public Library, Delta
 1911 - Hayden Public Library, Hayden
 1911 - Holly Public Library, Holly
 1911 - Glenn A. Jones M.D. Memorial Library, Johnstown
 1913 - Meeker Public Library, Meeker
 1913 - Ordway Public Library, Ordway
 1913 - Wray Public Library, Wray
 1914 - Montrose County Regional District Library, Montrose
 1916 - Estes Park Public Library, Estes Park
 1916 - Platteville Public Library, Platteville
 1916 - Swink Public Library, Swink
 1918 - Sterling Public Library, Sterling
 1919 - Ault Public Library, Ault
 1920 - Akron Public Library, Akron
 1920 - Englewood Public Library, Englewood
 1920 - Otis Public Library, Otis
 1921 - Burlington Public Library, Burlington
 1921 - Fort Lupton Public Library, Fort Lupton
 1921 - Hugo Public Library, Hugo
 1922 - Fleming Community Library, Fleming
 1922 - Julesburg Public Library, Julesburg
 1922 - Las Animas Public Library, Las Animas
 1922-23 - Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke
 1923 - Flagler Community Library, Flagler
 1923 - Manzanola Public Library, Manzanola
 1924 - Lafayette Public Library, Lafayette
 1924 - Louisville Public Library, Louisville
 1924 - Yuma Public Library, Yuma
 1925 - Haxtun Public Library, Haxtun
 1925 - Baca County Library, Springfield
 1927 - Ovid Public Library, Ovid
 1928 - Crook Community Library, Crook
 1929 - Aurora Public Library, Aurora
 1929 - Cortez Public Library, Cortez
 1930 - Jackson County Library, Walden
 1930 - Custer County Public Library, Westcliffe
 1930 - Hayden Public Library, Hayden
 1931 - Berthoud Public Library, Berthoud
 1931 - Weld County Library, Greeley
 1933 - Grand County Library, Hot Sulphur Springs
 1933 - Yampa Library, Yampa
 1934 - Bayfield Public Library, Bayfield
 1934 - Nucla Public Library, Nucla
 1935 - Kiowa County Public Library, Eads
 1937 - Elbert County Library, Kiowa
 1937 - Garfield County Public Library, New Castle
 1938 - Pitkin County Library, Aspen
 1939 - Gunnison County Public Library, Gunnison
 1946 - Mancos Public Library, Mancos

1946 - Olney Springs Public Library, Olney Springs
 1947 - Limon Memorial Library, Limon
 1950 - Saguache County Public Library, Saguache
 1951 - Hudson Public Library, Hudson
 1951 - Westminster Public Library, Westminster
 1952 - San Miguel Public Library District No. 1, Telluride
 1952 - Rio Blanco County Bookmobile, Meeker
 1953 - Adams County Public Library, Northglenn
 1955 - Dolores Public Library, Dolores
 1958 - Lower Arkansas Valley Regional Library, Las Animas
 1958 - Summit County Library, Frisco
 1960 - Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library, Broomfield
 1960 - Ridgway Community Library, Ridgway
 1960 - Security Public Library, Security
 1961 - Northeast Colorado Regional Library, Wray
 1963 - Aguilar Public Library, Aguilar
 1965 - Park County Public Library, Bailey
 1966 - Arapahoe Regional Library District, Littleton
 1966 - Woodland Park Public Library, Woodland Park
 1968 - Douglas County Public Library, Castle Rock
 1970 - Dolores County Public Library, Dove Creek
 1972 - Costilla County Library, San Luis
 1972 - Vail Public Library, Vail
 1973 - Eagle County Public Library, Eagle
 1974 - La Veta Public Library, La Veta
 1974 - Ward Public Library, Ward

TABLE III.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDINGS IN COLORADO

Many Carnegie library buildings have become too small, and they have been replaced with new buildings. The following Carnegie library buildings are still operating.

	Opening Year:		
Brush	1915	Manitou Springs	1905
Canon City	1901	Monte Vista	1916
Delta	1912	Salida	1908
Florence	1919	Silverton	1905
Idaho Springs	1904	Trinidad	1904
Replaced:			
	Opening Year:	Replaced by a new building:	
Alamosa	?	1964	
Boulder	1906	1965	
Fort Collins	1904	1976	
Fort Morgan	1916	1974	
Grand Junction	1901	1938 and again in 1975	
Lamar	1908	1976	
Leadville	1908	1971	
Littleton	1916	1965	
Longmont	1907	1972	
Loveland	1908	1965	
Pueblo	1904	1965	
Rocky Ford	1907	1976	
Sterling	1918	1976	

Durango Carnegie library opened in 1906, and an addition was built in 1967. Colorado Springs Carnegie library building opened in 1905, and an addition was built in 1968.

The old main Denver library building, opened 1910, was no longer used as a library after 1956, but it is still in existence.

TABLE IV.

**LIBRARIES FOUNDED BY WOMEN OR
WOMEN'S CLUBS**

The historical sketches are not always very clear about whether the organization which founded the library was a women's organization or not. This list below may omit several libraries which should have been included.

Year Founded:

Aguilar	1963	Kiowa	1937
Akron	1920	Lafayette	1924
Aspen	1938	Las Animas	1922
Ault	1919	Limon	1947
Aurora	1925	Littleton (Bemis)	1896
Berthoud	1931	Louisville	1924
Boulder	1881	Loveland	1885
Brush	1908	Manitou Springs	1900
Buena Vista	1898	Manzanola	1923
Burlington	1921	Meeker	1913
Canon City	1886	Monte Vista	1885
Colorado Springs 1865-70		Montrose	1914
Cortez	1929	Nucla	1934
Craig	1908	Olney Springs	1946-58
Crook	1928	Ordway	1913
Del Norte	1899	Otis	1920
Delta	1909	Ovid	1927
Eads	1935	Pagosa Springs	1907
Eagle	1966	Platteville	1916
Eaton	1901	Rifle	1927
Estes Park	1916	Saguache	1950
Flagler	1923	Salida	1894
Fleming	1922	Security	1960
Fort Collins	1900	Sedgwick	1886
Fort Lupton	1921	Springfield	1925
Fort Morgan	1890	Sterling	1918
Fowler	1891	Swink	1916
Georgetown	1900	Vail	1972
Grand Junction	1897	Victor	?
Greeley	1931	Walden	1930
Gunnison	1939	Walsenburg	1906
Hayden	1930	Westcliffe	1930
Holly	1911	Windsor	1906
Hot Sulphur Springs	1933	Woodland	1966
Hudson	1951	Wray	1913
Hugo	1922	Yampa	1933
Johnstown	1911	Yuma	1924
Julesburg	1922		